

End U.S. funding for Nicaraguan contras!

Washington's war against the people of Nicaragua got a political boost December 12 when the Senate voted to include \$16 million in "nonmilitary" aid to the contra mercenary army as part of a larger, catchall appropriations bill. A similar bill, minus the contra aid, has already been passed by the House; a compromise is now being worked out.

In addition to supplying the contras with food, clothing, and medical supplies, and the cost of transporting these items to con-

EDITORIAL

tra bases, the amendment allows military equipment already purchased to be shipped along with the "nonmilitary" aid.

Since the \$100 million in direct military aid to the contras ran out in October, this army of murderers, butchers, thugs, and rapists has been getting a transfusion from Washington of \$3 million a month in "humanitarian" aid to keep them going.

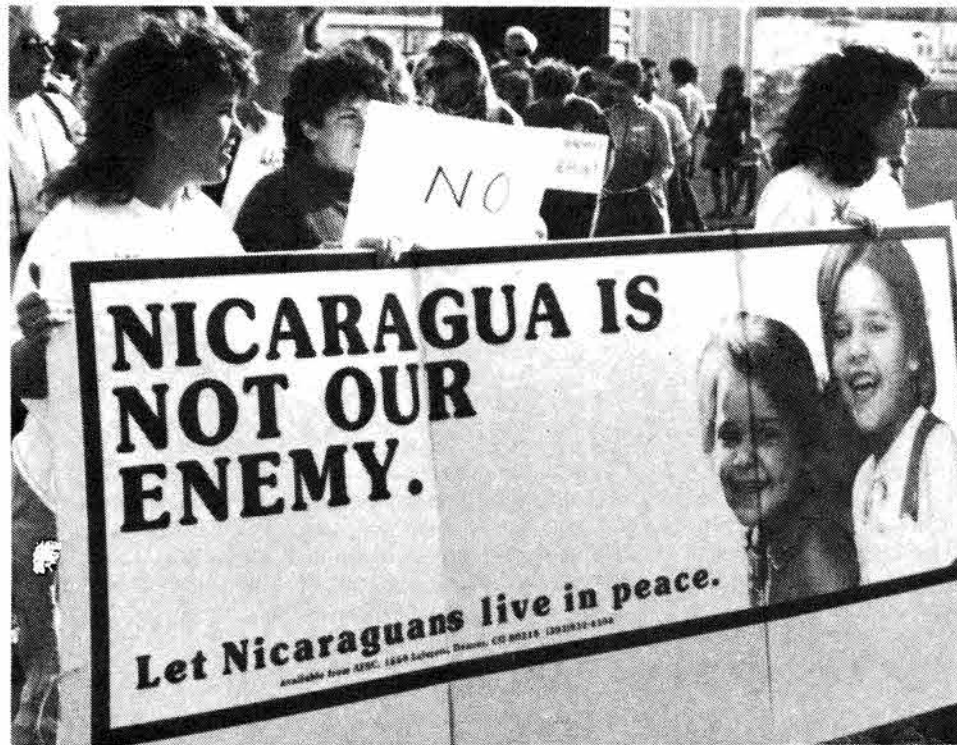
In fact, military and logistical shipments to the contras — previously paid for with the \$100 million — have stepped up recently. The State Department reports that twice as many supplies were parachuted to the contras in November than in previous months. Most of the deliveries were made by the CIA, flying out of bases in bordering Honduras.

The \$16 million voted by the Senate is designed to keep the contras afloat until early next year, when President Ronald Reagan is expected to ask Congress for \$270 million more in direct military aid.

Just a week ago, leading figures in the House claimed an appropriations bill that included more aid to the contras would never get through Congress.

Now the wind has begun to blow in the other direction, after a series of well-timed "revelations" by a defector from the Nicaraguan army has allowed legislators to focus on an alleged Nicaraguan military buildup.

This shabby rationale for continued aid for the contras — that Nicaragua poses a threat to the United States and to other countries in Central America — gets pulled off the shelf whenever the slightest resis-



Marchers in St. Louis November 7 protested U.S. funding of contras. Foes of U.S.-run war against Nicaragua need to step up opposition to Washington's drive to continue aid to terrorists.

tance to backing the contras is displayed in Congress. And if the Soviet Union's supplying of arms to the Sandinistas can be dragged in, so much the better.

Since the Central American peace accords were signed in August, the U.S. government has done its best to sandbag any progress toward peace. Washington has put Nicaragua on trial, demanding it virtually disarm itself and make internal political changes that would be against the inter-

ests of the workers and peasants. Similar demands are not made on any of the other governments involved. Meanwhile, Washington continues to fund the contras to keep the maximum pressure on Nicaragua.

U.S. charges of a military buildup by Nicaragua stand reality on its head.

It is the U.S. government that has militarized whole sections of Central America, built bases and airstrips, poured in ad-

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Palestinian protesters defy repression

BY HARRY RING

Responding to murderous repression by Israeli occupation forces, Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and West Bank are fighting back on an unprecedented scale.

In Gaza, the United Nations relief director described the situation as "a popular uprising."

He said every town and refugee camp in the area was affected by the mounting rebellion, adding that many older Palestinians were joining in the fight that had been mainly waged by the youth. Lawyers and other professionals are helping organize demonstrations. Women are breaking up concrete and filling shopping bags with chunks for protesters.

Israeli occupation forces have been doubled and are trying to crush the rebellion with unrestrained savagery.

On December 15 troops stormed a hospital in Gaza City, killing two Palestinians. UN officials at the hospital said some 20 others were beaten and dragged off to a prison camp. Nurses and doctors were beaten.

The Israeli troops acted to disperse several hundred Palestinians who had gathered at the hospital where a dead teenager had been brought in, along with others wounded at a protest demonstration.

UN staff people told reporters they had seen Israeli soldiers tie Palestinian youth to the hoods of army jeeps and use them as "shields" while advancing against demonstrators in refugee camps.

In the first week of the protests, which erupted December 8, at least 12 Palestin-

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The Reagan-Gorbachev summit talks

BY MARGARET JAYKO

The U.S.-Soviet arms agreement signed by Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev on December 8 reflected the antagonism of the peoples of the world to the mounting threat from nuclear weapons, nuclear power plants, nuclear testing, and radioactive waste.

unionists from some 50 countries, including Britain, Spain, Cuba, Peru, Nicaragua, Chile, Afghanistan, Australia, India, New Caledonia, the Philippines, Zimbabwe, Botswana, the Soviet Union, Hungary, and the United States.

Participants adopted a resolution that said: "We ... recognize that the racist system of apartheid in South Africa constitutes the greatest institution of injustice and inhumanity of these times in which we live, that the degradation of human beings is at the very foundation of apartheid, and that its continued existence holds back the development of Africa, of the international working class, and all of humanity."

The resolution called for comprehensive mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa and for trade unions around the world to help bring about action against governments that import South African

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For the first time, an entire class of nuclear missiles will be eliminated — intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF), which are made up of missiles that travel between 300 and 3,600 miles. Hundreds of these are currently deployed in Europe.

Since the atomic era began at the time of World War II, the international experience with the dangers of nuclear power and weapons has led to growing opposition to the nuclear threat.

The near-meltdown at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania in 1979, and the April 1986 explosion at the Chernobyl plant in the Soviet Union, made millions of people aware of the fact that every nuclear power plant, no matter how "safe," is a disaster waiting to happen.

And the sentiment, especially among European and Japanese working people, that the horrors perpetrated by Washington on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 should never be allowed to happen again was reinforced by Washington's 1979 decision to put nuclear-tipped missiles in Western Europe. This sparked a massive antimissile movement, mobilizing millions in street demonstrations.

The conviction that nuclear power and weapons are a threat to humanity and to the world we live in, which has been adopted and fought for by large numbers of people, has become a material force that made its mark on the arms pact.

The agreement, and the summit discussions about negotiating further arms reductions, reinforced this antinuclear sentiment, and will give an impetus to the fight

for a nuclear-free Europe.

Moreover, in this context it becomes politically much more difficult to try to put nuclear weapons of the type covered by the treaty back into Europe, just as reversing the 1963 U.S.-British-Soviet treaty banning atmospheric nuclear testing would be politically unacceptable.

Under the terms of the new agreement, Washington is required to destroy all 859 medium- and shorter-range missiles that carry nuclear warheads. Of these, 429 are medium-range Pershing 2 and ground-launched cruise missiles that have already been deployed in Western Europe.

In addition, the U.S. government will destroy 170 old Pershing 1A shorter-range missiles that have been stockpiled in the United States.

Moscow will destroy 1,752 medium- and shorter-range missiles. Of these, 470 are medium-range SS-20 and SS-4 missiles that are at bases in the Soviet Union.

In addition, it will destroy 387 shorter-range missiles deployed in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, and 539 of these weapons that are in storage.

An experimental new Soviet cruise missile and an experimental new U.S. Pershing missile will be destroyed as well.

All shorter-range missiles are to be destroyed within 18 months, while medium-range missiles are to be eliminated within three years. No new ones can be produced.

The launchers for each side's missiles are to be destroyed as well.

For the first time, both governments

Continued on Page 4

International miners' meeting urges sanctions on S. Africa

BY KIPP DAWSON

SYDNEY, Australia — "We have listened very carefully to speakers from all over the world who are concerned about the problem of South Africa. Indeed, we as well are concerned about the problems of other countries, for example Nicaragua."

These comments were made by James Motlatsi, president of South Africa's National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) during a news conference here November 25.

Motlatsi was summing up his reactions to the just-concluded three-day International Conference for Peace and Disarmament and against Apartheid sponsored by the International Miners Organisation (IMO).

The IMO was founded in 1985 as a vehicle for uniting miners and energy workers from around the world in a single federation.

In Sydney, Motlatsi and NUM leader Marcel Golding had a chance to discuss the recent strike by South African miners with

Latin America presidents meet

Fail to defend Nicaragua or take action on debt

BY SUSAN LaMONT

At the end of November, the presidents of eight Latin American countries — Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Venezuela, Panama, Uruguay, and Peru — met in Acapulco, Mexico, for a four-day summit meeting. The conference, which received extensive press coverage, marked the first time such a hemispheric gathering had taken place without the participation of Washington.

By calling for Cuba's reintegration into the Organization of American States and other hemispheric organizations, the Group of Eight, as the conference participants are known, struck an important blow against the U.S. government's 28-year drive to quarantine revolutionary Cuba.

The presidents' agreement that Cuba's participation in hemispheric forums is "indispensable" to their normal functioning was reported at a closing news conference November 29; it was not, however, included in the final written report summing up the meeting's decisions. This was reportedly due to an objection by Colombian President Virgilio Barco Vargas.

No help for Nicaragua

In contrast to the positive stand on Cuba, the meeting failed to condemn the U.S.-organized war against Nicaragua, although the conference agreed that "Central American peace and stability are priority matters for our governments."

The Group of Eight evolved out of the Contadora Group and Contadora Support Group, in which the eight countries came together, beginning in 1983, to develop proposals for a negotiated settlement to the armed conflicts in Central America. The Contadora process has since been superseded by the Central America peace accords signed in Guatemala last August by the presidents of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Guatemala. The Group of Eight participates in the International Verification and Follow-up Commission set up by the Guatemala accords.

The Sandinista government has taken the most far-reaching measures of any of the signatories to implement the provisions of the new peace accords, even though it faces growing hardships caused by the war and the U.S. economic blockade.

One of Nicaragua's most pressing problems is a severe oil shortage.

Until 1984, Nicaragua imported oil from Mexico and Venezuela under the terms of a special offer to Central American countries known as the San José Agreement. In 1984 Venezuela stopped sending oil to Nicaragua, which could no longer afford to pay even the San José terms. In 1985 Mexico followed suit.

The Soviet Union then began supplying Nicaragua with most of its oil. But a shortfall earlier this year forced Nicaragua to make an emergency international appeal for oil. Donations were made by Cuba, the

Soviet Union, and Peru. However, Nicaragua was still left without adequate supplies, which has required more rationing and other austerity measures.

On November 16, prior to the Acapulco summit, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega met with Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid to appeal for renewed oil supplies. It was hoped that the Group of Eight would take positive steps to provide some help.

The summit, however, declined to take any measures to help Nicaragua. At the November 29 news conference, Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi said that neither his government nor the Mexican regime planned to resume oil shipments to Nicaragua at preferential prices.

"Oil is public property, as much in Mexico as in Venezuela," said Lusinchi. "And we have to obey our own laws. We would be put on trial if we gave oil away."

No action on debt

Discussion of the staggering \$400-billion debt owed by Latin America to U.S. and other imperialist bankers was the most important item on the agenda of the Acapulco meeting.

"The foreign debt problem, the massive transfer of financial resources abroad, the extraordinary rise in interest rates, the deterioration of the trade exchange, and the proliferation of protectionism have all led to a reduction in the standards of living and in the possibilities for development in our countries," the conference report stated. The eight countries present at the Acapulco meeting account for \$338 billion of the total Latin American debt. But in response to this worsening situation, the meeting failed to decide on any joint action to begin

to free these countries from this unbearable burden.

A few statistics give a glimpse of the depth of the economic depression gripping the region:

- Per capita income in Latin America has dropped about 30 percent since 1980.

- During 1986, there was a net flow of \$22.1 billion out of Latin America to the imperialist banks for debt repayment. Thirty-five percent of Latin America's export earnings go to service the debt, which mushrooms each year.

- Inflation rates are sky-high; 338 percent during the last year in Brazil; 140 percent in Mexico; 120 percent in Peru; 135 percent in Argentina.

- Peru, which announced in 1985 that it would only pay 10 percent of its export earnings to service its \$14.5-billion debt, has an unemployment-underemployment rate of 65 percent.

- Brazil has a debt of \$112.7 billion — the largest of any semicolonial country. After suspending interest payments on its debt in February, Brazil recently negotiated an agreement with the banks to cover this year's payments. New agreements with the International Monetary Fund, requiring more austerity measures, are expected.

The growing impoverishment of Latin America's toilers is the trade-off for this flow of capital from Latin America to the imperialist banks. In human terms it means an increase in diseases like tuberculosis and malaria; growing sections of workers and farmers reduced to beggars; children abandoned, or even sold; swelling slums with few public services.



Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid. Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega had appealed to him for much-needed oil supplies. But at Latin American summit, he and Venezuelan president refused.

In the face of these conditions, the conference's call for increased lending at lower rates and an end to compliance with International Monetary Fund austerity programs in order to qualify for new loans was far from adequate.

A spokesman for Uruguay's President Julio María Sanguinetti captured the paralysis of the meeting when he said, "There is a consensus on two things. One is that the debt has to be paid, and the other is that the debt cannot be paid."

In recent years the call by Cuban President Fidel Castro to cancel the foreign debt of all the underdeveloped countries has found growing support from Latin America's toilers.

On November 29 the General Confederation of Labor of Argentina issued a statement criticizing the inaction of the Argentine government at the Acapulco conference and called for a moratorium on paying interest on the debt.

N.Y. university victimizes anti-CIA students

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN

"We demand you release the Albany 5 — What has SUNY got to hide?" chanted more than 250 students as they rallied and staged a sit-in at the administration building of the State University of New York at Albany on December 8.

Inside the building, David Anchen, Tom Gaveglia, and Nick Scheir were on trial for "disrupting" an October 7 Career Fair.

On that date, the campus Peace Project had organized a picket by 30 students to protest the presence of a CIA recruiter at the fair.

The picket initiated a month-long student campaign resulting in university officials declaring a temporary ban on CIA recruitment on campus.

Soon after the announcement of the ban, five students (the Albany 5) were informed that they had been charged by Delta Sigma Pi, a business fraternity and organizer of the career day, with disrupting the fair and

faced possible suspension or expulsion.

"It's clearly a frame-up orchestrated by the administration," defendant David Anchen told the *Militant*. Anchen is a member of the Peace Project and the Young Socialist Alliance. "The campus newspaper even quoted Peter Liaskos of Delta Sigma Pi as saying, 'An important aspect of the suit is that the administration wanted us to file it,'" Anchen said.

"This is the first trial of political activists on this campus in years," he added. "The administration picked students that they wanted to get rid of, and they're trying to railroad us. They're breaking every rule in the statewide SUNY student code to do it, too. We weren't allowed to be represented by a lawyer or to see the evidence against us before the trial."

Charges were dropped against two of the five activists when it was learned that they hadn't even been present at the protest. The two had signed letters to the campus paper

protesting CIA recruitment.

Several campus organizations and officers of the student government have rallied behind the students and are demanding an end to the frame-up. A fact sheet was distributed on the campus and to the press, which had covered earlier anti-CIA protests.

"The office of student affairs was swamped with protest phone calls the week before the trial," Anchen reports.

Mark Mischler, previously a lawyer for the campus Student Association, was called by the activists as a witness at the December 8 trial. He testified that improper procedures were being used in trying the students.

The trial was suspended until next semester to investigate the charges.

Protest messages should be directed to: Vincent O'Leary, president, SUNY Albany, 1400 Washington Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12222.

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— George Harrison
Irish activist

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SPECIAL OFFER



The Militant

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant's* views. These are expressed in editorials.

Maine paperworkers demonstrate in Boston

Picket offices of insurance company that owns stock in International Paper

BY JON HILLSON

BOSTON — Paperworkers on strike against International Paper Co. in Jay, Maine, joined unionists from the Boston area in a spirited picket line at the offices of Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. here December 11. Liberty Mutual is a major stockholder in IP and has a seat on its board of directors.

The action, which aimed at putting pressure on IP to begin serious negotiations with the striking unions, was sponsored by the Massachusetts AFL-CIO.

Some 1,250 members of United Paperworkers International Union Local 14 and Firemen and Oilers Local 246 have been on strike at IP's Androscoggin Mill in Jay since June 16, after they rejected a final contract offer that included elimination of Sunday premium pay, introduction of a "team concept" productivity plan, contracting out of work done by union members, an end to Christmas as a shutdown holiday, and other concessions. Also on strike or locked out are paperworkers at IP mills in De Pere, Wisconsin; Lock Haven, Pennsylvania; and Mobile, Alabama.

Union officials from the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, New England United Farmworkers Union, Boston Building Trades Council, and several other unions spoke at the picket line and pledged their support to the strikers.

Local 14 President Bill Meserve presented letters from strikers' children to Liberty Mutual's public relations manager Whit Lancaster.

A few days earlier, the December 9 union/family meeting in Jay heard a report on plans for Caravan '88. This month-long, self-supporting caravan of some 50 strikers and supporters will travel throughout Maine, beginning with a kick-off rally in Jay on January 6. Over 25 cities and towns are currently on the itinerary.

Caravan members will be holding public rallies; speaking at local schools; distributing leaflets at plant gates and door-to-door about the issues in the strike; recruiting people to join the caravan; and taking part in dances, bean suppers, and other fundraisers. A letter from the Maine AFL-CIO to all local unions encouraging them to "mobilize support for this caravan on a scale that has never been seen before" in the state was sent out on December 9.

The caravan is "part of a broader coordinated corporate campaign against IP," which Ray Rogers has been hired to direct. The caravan, the letter goes on, "will continue throughout New England, and perhaps beyond."

Ray Pineau, coordinator of the caravan, urged members to sign up for the effort at the December 9 meeting. "The people

don't want to hear politicians or international [union] reps, they want to hear you, why you're out on strike for six months." Pineau told the *Militant* that 200 strikers have signed up to participate in the caravan since it was announced several weeks ago.

For most workers this will be the first time they've ever spoken in public. Many have been inspired to sign up after hearing reports at the weekly union/family meetings from other labor "ambassadors" from Jay who've gone out to speak at union meetings throughout the region. Brent Gay, the locals' outreach coordinator, reported at the December 9 meeting that the strikers have spoken to over 75 union meetings since mid-October.

A new layer of members has also come forward to help staff union committees and organize other strike activities, such as building an addition on to Local 14's union hall.

Donations, messages of support, and requests for speakers can be addressed to: UPIU Local 14, Box 272, Jay, Maine 04239. Telephone (207) 897-5423.



Children marching in November 21 protest in Jay, Maine. Children of strikers have also sent protest letters to Liberty Mutual official.

Militant/Margrethe Siem

Canadian immigration officials twist facts on strip search of socialist

BY HARRY RING

Buck-passing, crude twisting of facts, and patent nonsense are being used by U.S. and Canadian customs officials to explain away their victimization of Mac Warren, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party and longtime Black rights fighter.

Warren was illegally denied entrance into Canada September 19. He was held by Canadian customs officials for five hours and grilled about his political activity. His personal papers were scrutinized. And he was then subjected to a degrading strip search.

On being turned over to U.S. customs officials at Montreal International Airport for a return flight, Warren was targeted for further harassment and abuse.

Canadian customs has now formally admitted its agents did strip-search Warren.

In response to a letter of complaint from Warren's Canadian attorney, Stuart Russell, the district customs manager, Regent Ross, writes:

"The body search was . . . to verify that your client was not secreting anything on his person as a result of a roll of tape found in his baggage. [!]"

Equally nonsensically, the letter asserts that "the initial search of his baggage was

to try to establish for Immigration purposes, the reason of his trip to Canada."

Apart from any absence of a hint as to what information would be gleaned "for Immigration purposes" from a scrutiny of his baggage, the fact is that Warren explained the purpose of his trip at the outset — to visit friends and associates.

Rejecting attorney Russell's request to interview the agents involved, Ross blandly asserts that since "the above explanations provide you with our reasons," no interview is necessary.

And, passing the buck on Russell's request for a copy of their file on Warren, Ross responds that "this case was an Immigration matter and not a Customs one."

The letter repeats the false claim that Warren's troubles began with "his total lack of cooperation in answering questions. . . ."

U.S. customs is equally evasive about its role in the matter.

In response to a letter from Leonard Boudin, Warren's U.S. attorney, the regional customs commissioner, Richard McMullen, passed the buck to Canadian officials. Warren's complaint is that U.S. customs agents insisted on a painstaking search of his baggage when he was turned over to them by Canadian agents.

This was done even though the U.S. agents knew Warren had been in custody from the time of his arrival in Canada. The labored "search" resulted in his missing a scheduled return flight to New York and consequent further Canadian custody and interrogation.

Neither the U.S. or Canadian officials address the obvious fact that Warren was singled out for special scrutiny at the Canadian border because he is Black, and that the victimization escalated when they realized he was a socialist leader.

Since this experience — and the significant protest it evoked — Warren has returned to Canada several times without incident.

Workers' compensation cuts are blow to Maine workers

BY JON HILLSON

JAY, Maine — Cutbacks in workers' compensation benefits made by the Maine legislature in November will result in increased pain, physical hardship, and mental suffering for workers who are hurt on the job here.

Maine Gov. John McKernan terms the cuts a "reform." Among the reforms are provisions that reduce the categories of permanent disability. For example, the loss of an arm or leg is now considered a partial disability, with compensation limited to seven and a half years.

Under the new definitions, the company has the right to force the partially disabled to be retrained — for a job that requires only one arm or leg. Refusal to retrain results in the loss of benefits. The disabled worker can also be required to move anywhere in the state in order to fill a suitable job.

The cuts in compensation benefits got backing from both Democrats and Republicans after a campaign by the state's insurance companies. The companies said they would leave the state unless the "reform" measure was passed.

Hundreds of paperworkers, including some on strike against International Paper here, joined other unionists in Augusta, the state capital, in October. They came to show the union movement's opposition to the new bill and testify against it.

Sharon Gonyea, a striker from Jay who sustained a serious back injury working for International Paper, said in her testimony, "There are days I want to cry. There are days I am very bitter. There are days I can't cry and don't feel enough hope to feel bitter. There are the days I have given up hope of ever being a whole person again."

"I am very concerned about the next person that gets hurt on the job should this bill pass. What kind of future do they have to look forward to?" Gonyea asked, urging the legislators to talk with her afterward about what it's like to live with an injury like hers. Not one came to talk with her.

New York City

A Young Socialist Alliance forum. . .

The Stock Market Crash and the International Fight for a New Economic Order

Hear Jack Barnes, Socialist Workers Party National Secretary. Sat., Dec. 19, 7 p.m. 79 Leonard St., Manhattan (5 blocks south of Canal St.). Sponsor: YSA and Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

N.Y. unions back paperworkers' fight

BY SUSAN LaMONT

NEW YORK — Paperworkers from Jay, Maine, visited New York City, the Albany area in upstate New York, and New Jersey in early December to help spread the word about their strike against International Paper Co.

Dick Dalessandro, area vice-president of United Paperworkers International Union Local 14, and Chuck Fullerton, secretary-treasurer of Firemen and Oilers Local 246, addressed the Industrial Union Council (IUC) of New Jersey on December 4. Fifty union officials representing most major unions in the state took up a collection for

the strikers and matched it with a contribution from the IUC.

In the evening, the strikers spoke to a meeting of the Hispanic Labor Committee in New York City. Unionists representing garment workers, government employees, hotel and restaurant workers, hospital workers, and others attended.

The following week, Local 14 Vice-president Felix Jacques and member Sharon Gonyea received a warm reception at a meeting of the Albany Solidarity Committee, a standing committee of that city's Central Federation of Labor. They also met with Edward Cleary, president of the New York State AFL-CIO, who donated \$1,000 on the spot and pledged further support to the strike. There is a big concentration of paper mills in the upper New York State area.

On December 11 Jacques and Gonyea spoke at a successful rally at the State University of New York in Albany, where some 25 students listened with great interest as the strikers described their struggle. The students began discussing plans to organize a bus trip to Jay to attend one of the weekly union/family meetings.

This report was compiled with the help of Larry Lane from Albany and Morrie Dietrich from New York City.

Holiday schedule for the 'Militant'

We want to alert readers to our holiday printing schedule. The next issue will be printed and mailed on Wednesday, December 23.

We will not print the following week. The first issue to be printed in 1988 will be mailed on January 7.

Distributors can contact the Business Office at (212) 929-3486 by 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 22 for changes in bundle sizes for the next issue.

Reagan-Gorbachev summit, arms pact

Continued from front page

agreed to on-site inspections to confirm that the missiles have been destroyed and to insure no new ones are produced.

The 2,611 missiles — which will be either smashed, exploded, crushed, burned, or launched to get rid of them — carry enough nuclear warheads to repeat Washington's bombing of Hiroshima 32,000 times.

Negotiations between the U.S. and Soviet governments have also begun on limiting long-range, or strategic, land- and sea-based nuclear missiles. A treaty on these weapons is supposed to be discussed in the spring when Reagan is slated to go to Moscow for another round of meetings with Gorbachev.

Threat from nuclear waste

The very process of getting rid of the missiles will cause serious, long-term damage to the environment. According to a report in the September 21 *New York Times*, "Experts at United States weapons laboratories and other Government agencies, who declined to be named, said in interviews that the propellant systems of missiles and nuclear warheads contain materials that may be poisonous, explosive, radioactive, or all three."

These include radioactive plutonium, uranium, and tritium, exposure to which can cause serious disease or death. Nuclear wastes can remain active for thousands of years and there is no way to neutralize or destroy them.

While the pact provides detailed discussion of how the missiles will be gotten rid of, their 2,000 nuclear warheads will not be destroyed.

They will be dismantled and the nuclear material from the bombs that the missiles carry will be recycled in future weapons. The radioactive substances will have to be transported either to weapons plants or civilian nuclear reactors.

'Star Wars'

Washington's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), commonly called "Star Wars," which would expand the Pentagon's nuclear arsenal to include space-based weapons, is still in the works. During the December 8-10 discussions between Reagan and Gorbachev in Washington, they basically agreed to disagree on Star Wars research.

Right after the summit, Reagan announced that the understandings reached with Gorbachev set no limits on the testing, development, and deployment of space-based nuclear weapons systems.

And on December 13 U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz announced that the Reagan administration intended to push ahead with the fight in Congress for funding for Star Wars research.

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Arms pact registered growing unacceptability of nuclear weapons by millions of people. Militant/Cindy Jaquith

Back home in Moscow, Gorbachev responded to these moves in a nationally televised speech on December 14. "Certain persons even try to assert that the talks in Washington have removed differences on such a problem as SDI and, under that pretext, make calls for speeding up work on that program," he said.

"I must say outright that these are dangerous tendencies and that they should not be underestimated," he continued, adding that they can "undermine the nascent turn" toward arms reductions.

In a November 28 interview with NBC reporter Tom Brokaw, Gorbachev revealed, in reference to space-based nuclear weapons, "Practically, the Soviet Union is doing all that the United States is doing, and I guess we are engaged in research, basic research, which relates to these aspects which are covered by the SDI of the United States. But we will not build an SDI, we will not deploy SDI, and we will call upon the United States to act likewise. If the Americans fail to heed that call, we will find a response."

Thus, while Star Wars is still far from being a reality, Washington's insistence on going ahead with research for SDI is an escalation of the nuclear threat and a decision to devote massive financial resources to expand the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

First-strike capability not possible

Washington's agreement to eliminate an entire class of nuclear weapons marks a watershed in its decades-long drive to gain substantial military superiority over the Soviet Union, with an eye toward even developing the capability to launch a nuclear attack on the Soviet Union powerful enough to destroy the country and prevent a retaliatory attack by Moscow.

Such a first-strike capacity would allow Washington to oppress, exploit, and repress the world's peoples without having to take the Soviet government's response into account.

But it has not proved possible for the U.S. militarists to develop such technological superiority vis-a-vis the Soviet Union. And the U.S. rulers are now being forced to adjust to that fact. Military threats against the Soviet Union won't accomplish much. Washington is forced to negotiate with the Soviet government, using political pressure and leverage to attempt to get political concessions from Moscow.

Gorbachev hopes that substantial bilateral reductions in the nuclear arsenal and limits on further development of nuclear weapons can free up sorely needed finan-

cial and human resources that can be diverted into industrial development to begin to solve the economic crisis facing the Soviet Union.

A particular drain on the Soviet economy is its occupation of Afghanistan, which is becoming increasingly unpopular with the people of the Soviet Union, who see mounting casualties and large sums of money going into a conflict that seems to have no end.

With the arms agreement in the bag, Washington is turning up the pressure on the European governments — and Tokyo — to jack up military spending and take the other necessary steps to expand their "conventional" armed forces.

On December 12 Secretary of State Shultz issued a call from Copenhagen, Denmark, for members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to increase military spending. Denmark is one of the countries that Washington thinks should increase its financial contribution to NATO.

Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, hailing the arms accord, told Shultz that Denmark's government had proposed that parliament increase military spending "in order to maintain the present strengths, and it's also part of our plans to increase the number of young people called to serve in the army."

While in Copenhagen, Shultz made clear his rejection of the popular demand for a nuclear-free zone in northern Europe, covering Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and the adjoining Baltic Sea.

The removal of Soviet and U.S. nuclear arms from Europe, however, will deal a blow to anti-Soviet sentiment and make it harder for the capitalist governments there to push through their program of larger war budgets and a military draft.

What's posed now is a struggle by Europe's workers and farmers against all aspects of this militarization drive, including using them as cannon fodder to put down rebellions by oppressed peoples from Iran to New Caledonia; military conscription; and opposition to the working class having to foot the bill for the ruling class' military.

Historically, arms agreements between powerful nations have often led to accelerated rearmament to counter the negotiated reductions.

This is true of the recent U.S.-USSR agreement. One example is the Reagan administration's announcement that it intends to push ahead on Star Wars. There are several others.

An article in the December 6 *New York Times* reported that the U.S. Strategic Air Command "is assessing which nuclear weapons could fill the gap in European defenses expected to be opened" with the arms pact.

After the summit, columnists Rowland Evans and Robert Novak pointed out, "Congress is so concerned about President Reagan's sprint to a strategic missile treaty by next spring that it may be ready to do what until now has been undoable: finance a long-range mobile missile to protect the United States against surprise Soviet attack..."

"That means either converting the silo-based MX into a mobile missile or finally going ahead with the mobile Midgetman."

And on December 14, British Defense Secretary George Younger said that progress is being made on discussions with Paris on the possibility of producing a British-French cruise missile.

'Regional conflicts'?

One of the topics on Reagan and Gorbachev's agenda was what they and the big-business media refer to as "regional conflicts."

The December 11 joint U.S.-Soviet statement on the summit talks had a section titled "Regional Issues" that read, "The President and the General Secretary engaged in a wide-ranging, frank, and businesslike discussion of regional questions, including Afghanistan, the Iran-Iraq War, the Middle East, Cambodia, southern Africa, Central America, and other issues."

"They acknowledged serious differences but agreed on the importance of their regular exchange of views."

"The two leaders noted the increasing importance of settling regional conflicts to reduce international tensions and to improve East-West relations. They agreed that the goal of the dialogue between the United States and the Soviet Union on these issues should be to help the parties to regional conflicts find peaceful solutions that advance their independence, [and] freedom."

The so-called regional conflicts referred to in the statement are actually the major battlegrounds in the world today in the fight against national oppression and imperialist exploitation. They are armed conflicts between conflicting social classes. Some "parties" in these "regional conflicts" are fighting against freedom and national independence and some are fighting for these goals.

The reason Washington wants to discuss these wars with Moscow is that the U.S. ruling class wants — and needs — the Soviet government's help in trying to stabilize the political situation in these areas.

This is the first summit between U.S. and Soviet officials where it was so publicly explicit that ongoing wars in the Third World were discussed. It's not clear what, if any, agreements were made between Reagan and Gorbachev on these matters.

As the summit was in session, the beleaguered people of Nicaragua were the targets of ruthless military, economic, and political aggression by Washington. While the Sandinista government has been able to militarily prevent the U.S.-organized contra army from achieving any of its strategic goals, the mercenary war against Nicaragua continues to grind on, with Congress discussing giving yet millions more in aid to these armed terrorists.

The economic cost of the six-year-long war has been enormous, forcing the Nicaraguan government to make an international appeal for oil, which there is a severe shortage of in the country.

The fight to stop the contra war and defend the Nicaraguan revolution needs the support and solidarity of working people around the world. The only way the pressure on Nicaragua's workers and peasants can be alleviated is by cutting off all U.S. aid to the contra bands.

While Reagan and Gorbachev's aim is to collaborate and bring greater stability, the coming social crisis that was announced by the October 19 stock market crash will lead to greater and greater instability. The U.S. government and its allies around the world are going to need to use more military force to resolve social conflicts.

Behind trade deficit: growing competition in capitalist world

BY FRED FELDMAN

The December 10 announcement that the U.S. trade deficit had mounted to a record \$17.6 billion in October, up 25 percent from September, spelled more trouble for the U.S. economy.

While imports usually rise in October, in preparation for the Christmas sales, government and business circles had strongly counted on a much lower figure. The drop in the exchange value of the dollar — how much of other currencies the dollar can be exchanged for — by more than 50 percent in the last two and a half years was expected to power a steady and substantial decline in the trade deficit. The exchange value of the dollar is at its lowest level since World War II.

Devaluation of the dollar tends to make U.S. exports cheaper abroad and imports from other countries more expensive in the United States. But so far the price shifts have not changed buyers' habits enough to make a major dent in the trade deficit. In fact, the price increases for imports contributed significantly to raising the deficit figure.

The announcement of the trade deficit torpedoed a modest rally in the stock market, sending the stocks listed on the Dow Jones industrial average down by 47 points on December 10.

The dollar also dropped to new record lows December 10, exchanging for 129 yen or less than 1.64 marks. While stocks swung up again — following the pattern of frequent sharp jumps and drops that has prevailed since the crash — the dollar fell to new record lows again in the following days.

Washington has done little or nothing to slow the drop in the value of the dollar, relying on it as a means of gaining ground in increasingly stiff trade competition. In an effort to hold down the prices of exports from their countries, German, Japanese, and other central banks — with occasional token support from the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank — bought up dollars in an effort to keep up the exchange rate. The financiers have poured more than \$100 billion into what the London *Economist* termed a hopeless try at "leaning against"

the market forces that were pulling the dollar down.

Long-term decline

Although government and other economists cited numerous secondary factors as causes of the failure of the deficit to decline or even stabilize, the December 11 *Washington Post* noted that "the October report is full of indications of deeper changes."

"The United States is now running deficits in important categories of manufactured goods that have been American specialties — computers, chemicals, and heavy industrial machinery. Oil imports are up sharply and expensively over last year," the *Post* continued.

"Only a few years ago I used to brag about how the American electronics industry singlehandedly kept the United States trade balance positive," wrote Andrew Grove, president of Intel Corp., in a column in the December 13 *New York Times*. "Over the past year or so, my little joke soured. Last year, the United States imported \$13.5 billion more in electronics products than it exported."

The continued weakening of U.S. big business' position in world trade was highlighted in the October figures by the \$32 billion deficit in U.S. trade with four relatively industrialized imperialist-dominated countries: South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, and Hong Kong. The U.S. deficit with Western Europe was \$25 billion in October. The United States ran a \$3 billion deficit in trade with Japan, and \$1.7 billion with Canada.

West Germany led the world in total exports last year, while Japan has led in the export of loan and investment capital for the past two years.

Since 1981, the U.S. share of world exports has dropped from 20 percent to less than 14 percent.

The *Washington Post* worried that "a falling currency alone won't create" an export boom. "Britain has repeatedly turned to devaluation [of its currency] to get its trade in balance. Why is it that manufacturing employment has fallen faster in Britain over the past two decades than in any other major industrial country — and West Germany, with a currency that has risen over



Toyota plant in Japan. Japanese auto production was negligible 30 years ago.

the same decades, has now emerged as the world's strongest exporter?"

What World War II accomplished

The situation today is a far cry from the one that existed at the end of World War II, when a high-valued U.S. dollar, the key currency in world trade, helped carry a growing stream of U.S. goods and capital across much of the globe.

At the end of World War II, U.S. capitalism had emerged victorious and relatively unscathed from the carnage. The main competitors that the U.S. ruling class had confronted in the battle for world domination — German and Japanese imperialism — had been crushed. And British and French capitalism, which had fought on the winning side, were nonetheless greatly weakened and dependent on aid from the United States.

The vast destruction of goods, industry, and agriculture that began with the Great Depression and culminated in the worldwide bloodbath had eliminated the overproduction and overcapacity that had been the underlying cause of the economic crisis.

The scale of destruction created vast new potential markets for U.S. capital and goods in the rebuilding of Japan and Western Europe. With massive loans and grants through the Marshall Plan and other foreign aid programs providing seed money, a decades-long upswing in the economies of the imperialist countries began.

The upswing took place under the economic, political, and military hegemony of U.S. imperialism. The economic domination was symbolized by the role of the dollar as the decisive currency in world trade.

In 1950, for instance, the United States produced six times as many cars as Western Europe and Japan combined.

Competition revives

But the rebuilding of Europe, while vastly profitable for U.S. big business, also meant the rebuilding of competitors. As more and more modern plants and equipment were put in place, especially in West Germany and Japan, the capitalists in these countries began to gain on U.S. big business.

In the 1960s and '70s, Washington's monopoly position on the world market was broken in one field after another.

By 1990, the *Economist* predicted, Japanese companies will account for 40 percent of the U.S. car market. (This includes both imports and the growing number of cars produced in Japanese-owned U.S. plants.) Car production in Japan was negligible 30 years ago.

The dollar has lost its hegemonic position among currencies, although no other imperialist power is strong enough to impose its own currency as a substitute.

The expansion of industry and agriculture on a world scale has intensified competition, once again generating a worldwide glut of products. Overproduction again plagues the capitalist system.

Overproduction under capitalism means not that more is being produced than people want or need, but that more products are pouring into the markets than can be sold at a rate of profit acceptable to capitalist investors.

The U.S. imperialists have lost their monopoly domination of the world market, but no other power has been able to capture the position. The U.S. remains — politi-

cally, economically, and militarily — the major capitalist power.

World's biggest economy

As the world's biggest economy, the United States also possesses a gigantic internal market that not only provides a strong domestic market for U.S. capitalists, but a vital market for its competitors as well. The U.S. market takes in 40 percent of world imports. Sales to the United States accounted for about one-third of Japan's \$270 billion in exports last year.

And the U.S. nuclear arsenal, troops, and weaponry remain the ultimate guardians of world imperialism, including Washington's competitors, against revolts by the oppressed and exploited.

In the past, the kind of vast, chronic overproduction and intensified competition among imperialist ruling classes that is taking place today led to world war.

But the qualitative military superiority of U.S. capitalism within the imperialist camp and the deterrent presence of the Soviet nuclear arsenal have radically altered the framework in which these classical inter-imperialist rivalries have to be resolved.

Within this context, Washington is bringing its economic and political muscle to bear to improve its own position at the expense of its competitors.

Competitors, not allies

The increasingly brutal competition among the imperialist powers often takes place behind an elaborate facade of "cooperation" and "coordination," complete with summit meetings of the "allies." But while the imperialist powers are allies when it comes to such matters as steaming into the Persian Gulf to try to put the people of Iran back in their place, they are competitors when it comes to the increasingly desperate fight for shares of the overcrowded world market.

Washington has seized on the plummeting exchange value of the dollar as a weapon. The drop is powered by market forces. Investors have lost confidence in the dollar, preferring to place their capital in other currencies as inflation resumed and signs of a U.S. economic downturn accumulated.

But the U.S. government has indicated its satisfaction with the fall, and the publication of the new trade figures was followed by signs that a further drop would be permitted and encouraged.

The falling dollar operates as a kind of tariff on foreign goods in the U.S. market and a subsidy for U.S. goods in foreign markets, raising the prices of the first and lowering those of the latter. Allowing the dollar to fall freely is thus a form of protectionism.

The fall of the dollar threatens not only to destabilize world trade — where the dollar remains the nearest thing to a universally accepted currency — but also threatens to price the goods of U.S. competitors out of the U.S. and other markets.

Thus the capitalist rulers of West Germany and Japan have come under heavy pressure to lower interest rates, increase government spending, and take other measures to expand their domestic markets in order to make up for the likely loss of shares of other markets. Washington favors such moves because they also can increase the demand for U.S.-made products in the Japanese and West German markets.

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Big progress made during the fall circulation campaign

Publications fund goes over the top

BY NORTON SANDLER

Big progress was registered this fall on increasing the circulation of the *Militant*, the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the Marxist magazine *New International*.

At the same time our readers contributed nearly \$154,000 to the Socialist Publications Fund. That's the largest amount we have raised in a fund drive in several years.

Our distributors sold 6,007 subscriptions to the *Militant*, 1,253 *PM* subscriptions, and 1,388 copies of the latest issue of *New International*. Particularly impressive was the homestretch push, where our supporters made an all-out effort, selling 423 copies of *New International*, and 1,243 *Militant* and 274 *PM* subscriptions. Some distributors were out talking to working people and students about the publications right up until the deadline for printing the final scoreboard. (Final scoreboards for the circulation and fund campaigns were printed in last week's *Militant*.)

Our distributors circulated the publications in the working-class communities where they live. They also took the campaign to outlying campuses and worksites. This was done by organizing local teams or teams made up of supporters from a couple of cities.

Some 70 new subscribers were won in Maine alone this fall. This includes many paperworkers involved in the important strike at the International Paper mill in Jay. Teams also sold to paperworkers in Wisconsin, Texas, Arkansas, Alabama, Pennsylvania, and New York State.

Several teams helped get the publications into the hands of coal miners in New

Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, West Virginia, Alabama, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia, and Kentucky.

Dozens of *PM* and *Militant* subscriptions were sold to cannery and frozen food workers in the Salinas and Pajaro valleys in California. Farm workers in Washington State, Oregon, California, Texas, Florida, New Jersey, and Arizona are among the new *PM* subscribers.

Many subscriptions to the *Militant* and *PM* and single copies of *New International* were sold by our supporters to unionists in plants where they work.

Our distributors report selling more subscriptions than anytime previously during sales at plant gates, mine portals, and railyards.

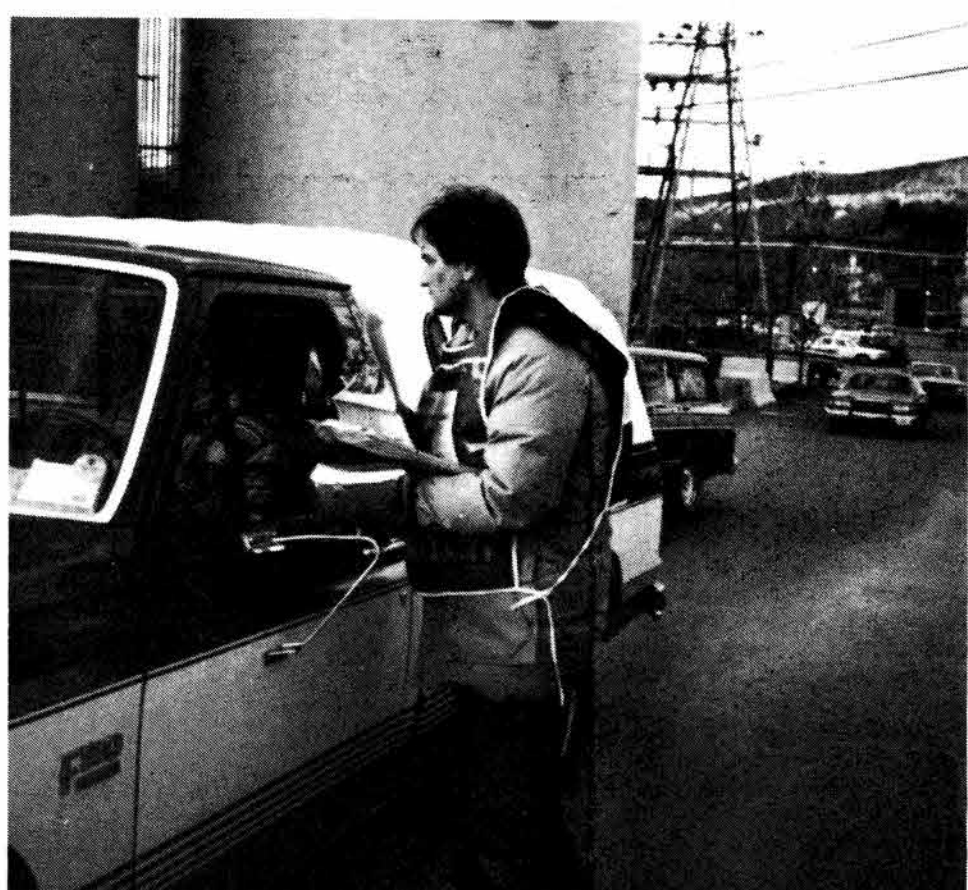
Sales on campus

Important progress was also made in reaching out to students. Distributors stepped up efforts to circulate the publications on campuses in the cities where they live, and almost every area organized regional campus teams.

At some campuses there are now many students who subscribe. Fifty *PM* and *Militant* subscriptions were sold at the University of California campus in Santa Barbara, and 33 were sold at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, to cite a couple of examples.

New International

New International carries articles that go into more depth on topics covered in the *Militant*, as well as important speeches and interviews with revolutionary leaders. Some of the articles from the magazine are translated and carried in *PM*. During this



Militant/Margrethe Siem
Militant salesperson talking to union member outside Boise Cascade paper mill in Rumford, Maine. More than 70 *Militant* subscriptions were sold in Maine during drive.

drive, we campaigned to distribute *New International* in the same way we distribute our other publications. The results from this initial effort are impressive. Supporters sold the magazine to their coworkers in factories, mines, and mills around the country. Hundreds of copies were sold on street corners in working-class neighborhoods. Hundreds more were sold on campus.

Advances were also made in getting the magazine placed in bookstores and newsstands in New York and a few other cities.

Distributors report that having political discussions about the contents of *New International* was a big aid to winning new readers for all the publications.

What was accomplished on the distribution of *New International* puts us in a good position to make even greater advances in future drives.

goal for the three publications. And four areas sold 100 percent or more of their goal for each periodical.

Challenge ahead

A large circulation campaign such as the one we have just gone through is the first step in increasing the long-term readership of the publications.

Some of our new readers will decide they are not interested in continuing their subscriptions. Others, however, will see that these publications provide news and analysis that is indispensable for all who want to fight capitalist injustice.

The challenge ahead is to convince our new subscribers to take out long-term subscriptions. Proposals for a renewal drive will be outlined in a future *Militant*.

Publications Fund

More than 1,100 readers pitched in to contribute \$153,772 to the Socialist Publications Fund, surpassing the \$150,000 goal set in August. The publications fund is used to help maintain and expand the circulation, distribution, and promotion of the *Militant*, *PM*, *New International*, the French-language *Nouvelle Internationale*, and Pathfinder books and pamphlets.

Contributions came from workers, students, farmers, and others who rely on these publications for the truth about the struggles of working people.

More than \$80,000 of the \$150,000 goal was pledged by supporters of the publications at a rally held during the Socialist Educational and Active Workers Conference in Oberlin, Ohio, in August. The job of organizing pledges from supporters who weren't at the rally and setting a goal for each local area took longer than necessary. Many areas reported that not setting a goal immediately weakened their overall effort.

A few areas reported that they initially set their fund drive goal based on adding up pledges from those who usually make a contribution. But as they began to reach out as part of the circulation campaign, they rapidly changed this approach because it tended to cut across involving coworkers, student activists, farmers, and other new readers in the fund campaign.

The interest in socialist publications was reflected at the many fund rallies that took place near the end of the campaign. Several areas reported that people they met for the first time during the circulation campaign also attended those events.

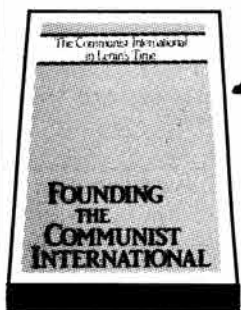
And the union members, students, and farmers who shared these platforms described the role *New International*, *PM*, the *Militant*, and Pathfinder books and pamphlets play in helping them advance their political work.

Many participants made contributions to the fund for the first time, and others who had already made a pledge were inspired to increase their contribution.

Twenty-three areas made or went over their goals.

It also should be noted that 96 readers responded to a special fund appeal from the editors by contributing more than \$7,000.

Holiday offer for Militant readers



Now is the time to make sure you get every issue of the *Militant* in 1988. If you buy or renew your subscription for one year you can take advantage of one of our special offers:

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OR

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OR

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Apartheid, Pathfinder mural themes of tour

ANC youth fighter gets good response in Cleveland, Atlanta



Militant/Jean Zuman
ANC Youth Section leader Victor Mashabela is helping build movement against apartheid in South Africa. His tour on behalf of Pathfinder Mural Project is getting good response.

BY MARTY PETTIT

CLEVELAND — An anti-apartheid rally of 150 people here enthusiastically greeted African National Congress member Victor Mashabela. He is from the Youth Section of the ANC, which is leading the liberation struggle in South Africa.

Mashabela shared the platform at Antioch Baptist Church with Prexy Nesbitt, a consultant for the government of Mozambique. The December 12 event was sponsored by TransAfrica, a Black anti-apartheid organization that lobbies on African issues.

Mashabela is touring on behalf of the Pathfinder Mural Project, a political effort to create a mural in New York City featuring portraits of revolutionary leaders whose writings are published by Pathfinder. It is being painted on the six-story wall of the publishing house's building.

The young ANC fighter talked about how to advance the international campaign to isolate the South African government. "What we need," he said, "is more comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against the apartheid regime."

"Ronald Reagan has said very little of the horrors of apartheid and much about the South African people's methods of ridding ourselves of it," Mashabela noted. But "once the true nature of the African National Congress is explained," he said, "people cannot help but embrace that organization."

Nesbitt denounced the support of the South African and U.S. governments for the "contras" of Africa. "We have to identify the armed bandits of the world," he said, "the Mozambique National Resistance, UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] in Angola, and the contras in Nicaragua."

"The MNR contras of Mozambique," Nesbitt said, "kill children by grabbing them by their feet and swinging them against trees till they are smashed to death."

The following night a reception for Mashabela at Spaces Art Gallery featured African dance, music, and poetry performed by The Arts Network, a Black artists' group. The group hosted a brunch the following afternoon at which works of art were donated by members. These will be auctioned off as the Pathfinder mural is being painted, with proceeds going to the project.

Mashabela was warmly received Sunday morning at Glenville United Presbyterian Church. The *Call and Post*, the *Plain Dealer*, and several radio stations covered his three-day tour here.

Mashabela will be speaking at Cleveland State University and Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio, and will meet with the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and the 21st Congressional District Caucus, led by Rep. Louis Stokes. A total of \$1,000 in contributions for the mural project was pledged during Mashabela's Cleveland tour.

BY ELLEN BERMAN

ATLANTA — A broad panel of speakers joined Victor Mashabela at the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center here December 11 to demonstrate their solidarity with the liberation struggle in South Africa and their support for the Pathfinder Mural Project.

Brenda Davenport, national student coordinator of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, greeted Mashabela on behalf of SCLC President Joseph Lowery. "Young people are understanding more

and more," she said, "that the struggle in South Africa is our struggle. I commend Pathfinder for the mural project as a creative way of letting people know what's going on."

Prexy Nesbitt congratulated Pathfinder on its recent publication of a collection of writings and speeches by Che Guevara, as well as the publication of ANC leader Nelson Mandela's writings. "I recommend Nelson Mandela's writings to all of you," he said.

A representative from City Councilman Jabari Simama's office presented Mashabela with a plaque extending a "welcome to the City of Atlanta on behalf of the Atlanta City Council" and "applauding the important work of the African National Congress."

Jerry Waters from American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1644, and Keith Jennings from the Georgia Black Students Association of Atlanta University also gave greetings. Malkia M'Buzi from the Georgia Divestment Coalition and the South Africa program of the American Friends Service Committee gave a poetry reading.

The meeting voted to send letters to President Reagan and South African President Pieter Botha demanding the release of the 40 South African patriots imprisoned in Botha's jails.

The gathering also voted to send a letter to New York City Mayor Edward Koch protesting the harassment of the Pathfinder Mural Project by the city administration. The project recently received 35 citations from the city's Environmental Control Board for "illegally" pasting leaflets on lampposts in the community where the Pathfinder Building is located. The firm of noted U.S. constitutional attorney Leonard Boudin, Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky, and Lieberman will be representing the Pathfinder project.

Joe Beasley, a leader of the Rainbow Coalition, hosted a wine-and-cheese reception for Mashabela at his home the following day.

Mashabela met with Atlanta City Council members Bill Campbell and Jabari Simama, as well as representatives of Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young's office.

He spoke with 20 students at Emory University. Mashabela was interviewed by the Black newspaper the *Atlanta Voice*.

Minnesota students fight for rights

BY STEVE ARGUE

MINNEAPOLIS — Students at the University of Minnesota scored an important victory here when an attempt to expel political activists was beaten back. On November 16 a disciplinary panel acquitted three students who had been charged with violations of the university's student conduct code. The charges were slapped on three activists — Jill Zemke, Mike Turnure, and Patty Kelly — for heckling a speech by Vice-president George Bush last April.

In the same ruling, the Campus Committee on Student Conduct found the Progressive Student Organization (PSO) guilty of violating rules on the use of sound equipment. This ruling, however, also contained a statement that the sound amplification policies "have been unevenly, arbitrarily, and prejudicially applied" by university officials.

The guilty verdict means the PSO will be required to work with a university advisor. The ruling also warned that further violations of the student conduct code could result in the PSO losing recognition as a university group.

PSO member Zemke said, "These are the mildest sanctions they can impose against us." She explained that university officials are on the defensive because of all the bad publicity they're getting and the lawsuit against them.

The lawsuit she was referring to was filed on behalf of Zemke, Turnure, Kelley, and the PSO against the university administration for conspiring to suppress political activity on campus.

A large part of the PSO's case is based on minutes from a meeting of university administrators. At this meeting they mapped out a strategy to get rid of the PSO.

According to the minutes, university officials sought to:

- 1) disestablish the PSO and kick it off campus;
- 2) selectively inhibit the PSO from obtaining permits for activities, putting up posters for events on campus, and using sound equipment;
- 3) target individual student officers of the PSO with conduct code charges in

order to discourage their activity in the organization and/or expel them from the university.

Five students were named as PSO officers to be targeted for expulsion, among them Kelley, Turnure, and Zemke.

Evidence shows that the administration has been attempting to implement this campaign against the PSO.

In addition to the charges stemming from the protests against Bush's speech, the administration has charged Zemke and Turnure for breaking a university building window. The window was broken in response to the macing and clubbing of students protesting CIA recruitment on campus by university and city cops.

Although other students had previously been identified for breaking the window, conduct code charges were brought against the PSO leaders. Both students were put on the administration's blacklist. As a result, Turnure was suspended for two quarters and lost his university job.

The administration's policy restricting posterage has been on the books for years, but never enforced.

This policy is now being used against the PSO. University cops destroy PSO posters. Moreover, they have given out seven tickets for illegal posterage, and arrested a PSO member for putting up a poster in an undesignated area.

The PSO has also been selectively denied permits to use sound systems on campus.

The lawsuit charges the administration with violating the students' First and 14th amendment rights (free speech and association and due process and equal protection of the law by illegally conspiring to suppress political activity).

At a press conference held to publicly launch the suit, the students stated, "The PSO is part of a large and growing movement against U.S. intervention in Central America. The national and local movement is experiencing increasing levels of illegal political repression. This includes similar charges against student activists on other campuses nationally. It is in solidarity with the national movement that we are filing suit against the university administration."

The Minneapolis PSO is compiling a packet of information on legal work, including their lawsuit, and they are asking for information on what is happening along these lines on other campuses.

Donations for legal fees and messages of solidarity can be sent to Student Activists Defense Committee, 923 21st Ave. South #11, Minneapolis, MN 55414.



Lenin (center) with delegates to Communist International congress

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New Che book gets warm reception from p

On December 6 some 400 people attended a New York meeting to celebrate publication of the book *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution: Writings and Speeches of Ernesto Che Guevara*. This new collection of his writings, speeches, and letters was published by Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia of Sydney, Australia, in collaboration with the José Martí Publishing House of Havana.

The New York rally was one of a series of international events to launch the book. Meetings also took place in Australia, Canada, Britain, New Zealand, and San Francisco.

Guevara, an Argentine by birth, was a central leader of the 1959 Cuban revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed tyranny of Fulgencio Batista. In 1966 he joined the guerrilla struggle in Bolivia against the military dictatorship there, and was assassinated in 1967.

Because of the power and relevancy of Che's ideas, and the comprehensive nature and high quality of the volume, the book has already been widely commented on and its publication hailed as important for fighters for social justice around the globe. For the past two weeks, the *Militant* has reported extensively on these meetings.

But we have not been able to do justice to the dozens of messages that have been received. So in this issue we are printing excerpts from a selection of the greetings sent to the New York, London, and Montreal meetings.

Jean-Marie Tjibaou

President, Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front of New Caledonia.

In 1987, throughout the colonial and neocolonial countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Pacific, centers of

struggle are continuing, deepening, and multiplying.

One of the fields of battle is our struggle to free the Kanaky from French colonialism. To achieve this, they need support from and the reinforcement of the struggle in France and in all other countries, both oppressor and oppressed. The growth of solidarity and support among the people of the United States continues, therefore, to be an important task.

"Above all, always be capable of feeling deeply any injustice committed against anyone, anywhere in the world," wrote Che to his children in 1965.

It is 20 years since Che was struck down by the agents of American imperialism. Today his message remains particularly urgent for an American people more militant and in stronger solidarity with fighters for justice and freedom and with their struggles.

Solly Similane

Deputy representative, African National Congress Observer Mission to the United Nations.

We would like to heartily thank our brothers and sisters of Pathfinder for their tireless efforts, determination, and zealousness they have shown in putting together the works of Comrade Che Guevara, who was a great man and a military genius.

Dorotea Wilson

Member of Nicaragua's National Autonomy Commission and Sandinista National Liberation Front deputy in the National Assembly.

Che united in his revolutionary spirit the previously divided forces of Latin America



Dorotea Wilson

and the Caribbean — an Argentine who fought in Cuba and died fighting in Bolivia.

So, it is precisely as a Caribbean woman that I feel and am a Sandinista. This is the best tribute that a Nicaraguan woman can pay to Che.

Alicia Varel

North America and Central America relations director, Sandinista Workers Federation of Nicaragua.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you for the importance that you have given to Che's political thought with the publication of this book.

Commander Ernesto Che Guevara is an international figure. For our Latin American peoples he represents a guide, a hope for achieving the just demands of our peoples in their fight for sovereignty, independence, and self-determination.

Elías Castro Ramos

Hartford defendant in trial of Puerto Rican independence activists.

Commander Guevara and the Cuban revolution have been very valuable examples in the education of all revolutionaries in Latin America and the Third World.

The struggle for Puerto Rican independence was one of his major concerns, and he defined Puerto Rico as the frontier of the anti-imperialist struggle.

Carlos Hernández

Leader of the 1985-87 cannery strike in Watsonville, California, recently in prison on strike-related charges.

Jail has been a rough experience — the solitude, the garbage food, the cops who act like they are the bosses and treat me and my *compañeros* like we are nobody at all.

But I remembered Che's teachings and those of my *compañeros* in Cuba and Nicaragua. I remembered how Che, after having been a healer of bodies, became a doctor of revolution, a Marxist doctor.

Terry Marryshow

General secretary, Maurice Bishop Youth Organisation of Grenada.

This magnificent effort by Pathfinder will surely find many appreciative and interested readers among revolutionaries, as well as among all those working for social progress, equality, and justice not only in Grenada and the Caribbean but also in Latin America, Asia, and Africa on whose very soil Che himself once set foot.

Sandra Levinson

Director, Center for Cuban Studies.

Absolutely first-rate — Che's words remind us, once again, of what a special human being he was. The letters, which reveal Che's very personal socialist values, make the book an indispensable addition to any collection.

Mission of Angola to the United Nations

Guevara is particularly important to Angolans because it was through him that we first got in touch with the Cuban revolution. His presence among us in the 1960s inspired our guerrillas in their struggle against Portuguese colonialism and for the achievement of our independence.

David Abdulah

Education and research officer, Oilfields Workers' Trade Union of Trinidad and Tobago.

This book is an important contribution to the development of experience in the Third World. It reaffirms what Che has always represented — international solidarity.

Juan Sánchez

Puerto Rican painter in the United States

El Che, from the very beginning of my social and political consciousness, has always had a deep impact and influence on my life and especially on my art.

Che Guevara's strength, vision, and tenacity inspires us to recognize and claim the strength that is within ourselves and that (at the risk of sounding ridiculous) is driven by a great feeling of love for humanity.

Margaret Randall

U.S.-born poet and author facing deportation.

One of the "crimes" the government's prosecuting attorney charged me with last year, at my hearing before an Immigration and Naturalization Service judge, was that of once having written a poem to Che Guevara!

I salute Pathfinder for publishing this important collection of his thought — writ-



Margaret Randall

ings and speeches, some of which have not previously been available to an English-speaking audience.

This is a history that belongs to us all. No one can take it from us.

Luis Miranda

President, Casa de las Américas, New York City.

We feel highly honored by the publication of the book *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*.

Pete Seeger

Singer and composer

We can all learn a lot from this book of Che's speeches. Most of us know woefully little about Latin America. This is a good place to start.

Gregorio Selser

Journalist and author of *Sandino*

I have received the book published

Pathfinder sells well at Miami bookfair

BY MARTY ANDERSON

MIAMI — With a banner announcing a new book of Che Guevara's writings and a front table featuring many books and speeches by Fidel Castro, Pathfinder joined hundreds of other publishers at the Miami International Book Fair November 13-15.

This was the second year Pathfinder participated. Throughout the weekend, thousands of people crowded around the booth and purchased hundreds of copies of books by Castro, Guevara, Malcolm X, Nelson Mandela, V.I. Lenin, and others.

Eighty-five copies of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* were sold, along with 13 subscriptions to the two publications. Eight copies of the *New Internationalist* magazine were also sold.

Without a doubt, the booth attracted more attention than any nearby stall. While not all visitors were friendly, most were.

Nearly half the books sold were in Spanish, the majority of these to Cubans.

Young Cuban-Americans bought books and pamphlets by Castro for themselves, or, as one young woman explained, "to take to my father, who has no idea such a bookstore exists."

One Cuban, who left for the United States via the port of Mariel seven years ago, walked up with a surprised look and asked if Pathfinder sold Karl Marx's *Capital* "in English or Spanish." He left an hour later with more than \$30 in books in Spanish.

Many people's reaction was to commend the booth's staffers for their "courage" in openly displaying socialist literature in Miami.

One woman said she had been listening to a right-wing, Spanish-language radio station that took disapproving note of Pathfinder's participation in the bookfair.

Two high school students came by. One had first come to know the Young Socialist Alliance and the *Militant* on the bus to Washington, D.C., for the demonstration against U.S. intervention in Central America last April 25. They spent some time at the table and later asked to join the YSA.

Some \$1,100 worth of literature was sold during the three days.

Four hundred leaflets on a socialist educational conference at the Pathfinder Bookstore the following weekend were distributed.



Militant/Nancy Cole

Castro, Guevara, Malcolm X, Mandela, Lenin were popular among purchasers.

Political figures, artists

Pathfinder Press. I consider it an important contribution in English to the work of Commander Guevara.

Bruce McM. Wright

Justice, Supreme Court of State of New York.

I have received a copy of the Guevara book and I treasure it.

Gerry Adams

President, Sinn Féin of Ireland.

Che will be remembered with pride by all freedom-loving people throughout the world, but we in Ireland can allow ourselves some satisfaction in the knowledge of Che's origins in a family driven from Ireland by imperialism, and going on to fight with their brothers and sisters for freedom, justice, and peace.

Bill Callahan

Director, Quixote Center and Quest for Peace.

Those who lay down their lives for others challenge to fuller lives those who survive.

May the publication of Che's book call many to new dreams and hope that the poor may share the earth.

John Gerassi

Editor, Venceremos! The Speeches and Writings of Che Guevara.

Most complete and most important Che Guevara book available to the English-reading public.

'Haïti Progrès'

Weekly published in New York

This work is especially relevant for those of us working in Haiti, where we are experiencing momentous events as our country teeters on the brink of revolution.

Today, Che's words and thoughts have, for us, more importance than ever.

Rafael (Fafa) Taveras

General secretary, Dominican Socialist Bloc; president, Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America.

We welcome Pathfinder Press's publication of the volume *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution* as a demonstration of the tribute that all revolutionaries owe to this titan of the struggles for the emancipation of the toilers and peoples subjugated under the yoke and control of capital.

On the 20th anniversary of Che's death, the dissemination of his best works will allow today's youth to become familiar with his ideas, to measure the scope of his life, and to better appreciate the tremendous significance of his example.

Che himself represented the advance of man that every revolutionary would like to be, and the model of the future we must build.

The publication of this volume in English is a very important contribution so that the North American people can also become familiar with the current importance of Che Guevara's thought and the beautiful clarity of his stellar path.

Dennis Brutus

Exiled South African poet

The vitality and depth of Che's ideas are early shown in this collection.

José Martín Ramos

President, New York branch, Puerto Rican Socialist Party.

Che spoke of the need to create a new

man, superior and different, the product of a true revolution. He also referred to collective work and to the benefit of voluntary labor as a social and moral value.

On a day like this, when Che Guevara is being remembered, we extend greetings to those who are disseminating his writings and his work, because Che is an example of a true revolutionary, a true example to follow.

Jean-Claude Parrot

President, Canadian Union of Postal Workers.

Che Guevara's works and his life have proven to be of great inspiration to people involved in liberation struggles and have helped people to understand the history and social conditions of Latin America.

Communist Party of Great Britain

The Communist Party very much welcomes the publication of the book on Che Guevara and the Cuban revolution.

That revolution was one of the big turning points in the social and political emancipation of Latin America, a process which

Continued on Page 12

S.F. gathering celebrates Guevara writings

BY MALIK MIAH

SAN FRANCISCO — "All of us can become the sons and daughters of Che in our factories, fields, and neighborhoods," said Carlos Hernández, a workers' leader from Watsonville, California.

Hernández — who had just completed a 30-day jail term for his role in the victorious 1985-87 strike by Watsonville cannery workers — was speaking to more than 100 people at a meeting to celebrate the publication of *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution: Writings and Speeches of Ernesto Che Guevara*. The meeting, sponsored by the Pathfinder bookstores of San Francisco and Oakland, was held at the Media Art Gallery here.

Hernández described spending much of his stint in prison discussing politics, including the ideas of Che, with other inmates.

The featured speaker was David Deutschmann, editor of the book and director of Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia, based in Sydney, Australia.

Deutschmann explained that the aim of the book is "to make the main political and economic views of this great Marxist more widely accessible to a new generation of working-class fighters."

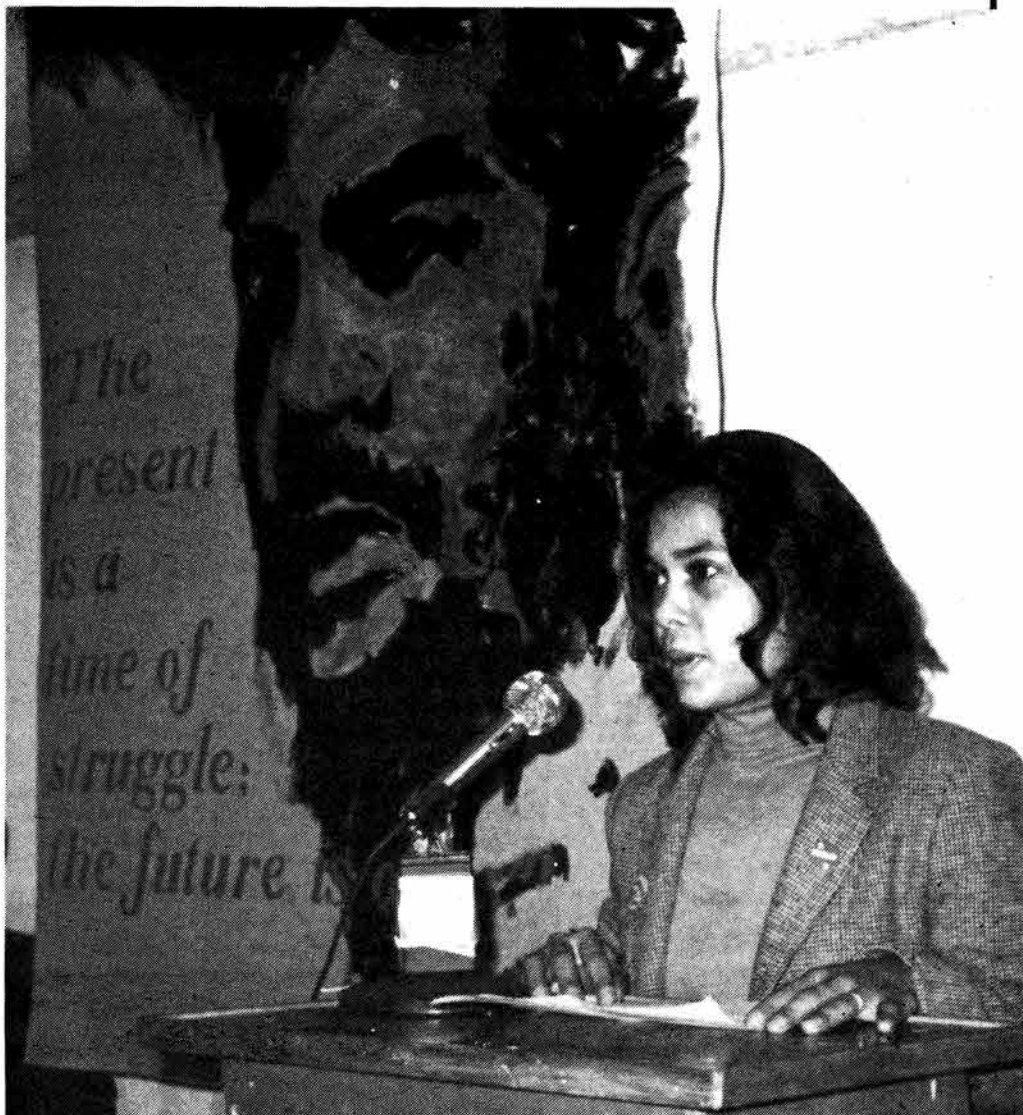
Cathy Sedwick, representing the two Pathfinder bookstores, and Cindy Jaquith, from Pathfinder in New York, co-chaired the meeting. Sedwick, an auto worker who participated in a Venceremos Brigade to Cuba last spring, said, "Tonight, we are extra proud of the new book because of the picture it gives of the kind of person the working class can produce through its struggles."

Luis Flores, West Coast representative of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador, sent a message that was read by Leonor Flores of the El Salvador Solidarity and Information Office.

"Che's example," said the message, "has been taken up by us, and the best offering we can make to his memory is to achieve the triumph of the revolution in El Salvador."

Sipho Cele, a member of the African National Congress of South Africa, also spoke. He told the audience, "Guevara is a hero in Africa."

"This is an excellent book," said Medea Benjamin, coauthor of *No Free Lunch: Food and Revolution in Cuba Today*. Benjamin lived and worked in Cuba from 1979 to 1982 and is coordinator of the Central



Militant/Susan Muysenberg
Leonor Flores of the El Salvador Solidarity and Information Office, speaking in San Francisco, said best offering to Che's memory would be victory of revolution in El Salvador.

America program of the Institute for Food and Development Policy.

The first times she "met a 'Che,'" as she put it, were in the African countries of Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau, where youths told her, "We will be like Che."

Piri Thomas, poet and author of *Down These Mean Streets*, did a reading of several of Che's last letters, which are reprinted in the book. Thomas is of Puerto Rican and Cuban descent.

Several messages were sent to the meeting.

Among them was one from Michael Davis, regional director of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), who wrote, "One cannot understand the process of the liberation of the Americas without understanding Che."

A message from the San Francisco Bay Area Peace Council said, "None is any more significant than the contribution of Che Guevara to the intellectual formation of socialist thought as well as the determination to fight, even to sacrifice one's life, for the rights of the oppressed peoples wherever they may be in the world."



Militant/Susan Muysenberg
Carlos Hernández

New!

Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution



Writings and Speeches of Ernesto Che Guevara

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Tanzania conference maps world campaign against apartheid

BY SAM MANUEL
AND KATHY MICKELLS

ARUSHA, Tanzania — The International Conference of the Peoples of the World Against Apartheid and for a Democratic South Africa ended here December 4. Some 500 delegates from 60 countries reaffirmed their support to the African National Congress of South Africa as the leader of the liberation struggle there, and mapped out plans to intensify the worldwide campaign to isolate and impose sanctions on the apartheid regime.

The conference, which opened in this East African country December 1, was the final event in a year-long series of activities held around the world to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the African National Congress (ANC).

The gathering appealed for an emergency campaign to save the lives of six Black South Africans sentenced to death by the apartheid regime. An appeal by the Sharpeville Six, as they are known, has been rejected, clearing the way for the government to set a date for their executions.

Save the Sharpeville Six

The six are Theresa Ramashamola, Mojalefa Sefatsa, Oupa Diniso, Duma Khumalo, Francis Mokhesi, and Reid Mokoena. Ramashamola is the only woman among the more than 30 anti-apartheid activists who are sentenced to death in South Africa.

The conference greeted the release from a South African prison of ANC leader Govan Mbeki and called for the release of Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners.

The largest delegations came from countries in Africa. Representatives of trade unions and youth and women's organizations fighting apartheid in South Africa were there, having overcome the Pretoria regime's attempts to prevent their attendance.

The conference included a sizable delegation of U.S. trade unionists, political activists, and leaders of anti-apartheid organizations.

Representatives of liberation movements in addition to the ANC were present, including the South West Africa People's Organisation, the Palestine Liberation Organization, and the Polisario Front, which is fighting the occupation of the Western

Sahara by the Moroccan monarchy.

The Arusha gathering adopted a declaration and a program of action. The latter centered on intensifying the struggle around the demand that all governments impose sanctions on South Africa. Special targets were the governments of the United States, Britain, and West Germany, which have resisted pressure to end their extensive economic, political, and military ties to apartheid.

Fight for sanctions

The meeting called for a ban on imports of South African gold, uranium, other metals, and coal. It called for barring loans to the regime and urged the International Monetary Fund to cancel all agreements with the government of President Pieter Botha.

The program of action calls for measures against companies that engage in bogus divestment, as well as those that openly refuse to divest. The UN Security Council and individual governments are called on to impose a mandatory embargo on the shipment of oil to South Africa.

The program proposed to intensify the campaign against Shell Oil Co., a prime supplier of oil and other fuels to the South African military.

The action program urged strengthening the academic and cultural boycott of the apartheid regime, while supporting the growing resistance to apartheid in the academic and cultural fields.

Role of unions

Trade unions everywhere were urged "to expand even further their education work among their members and others on the evils of apartheid and the conditions of their fellow workers in South Africa, and the necessity for sanctions." The program urges unions to refuse to handle South African goods.

Representatives of the Congress of South African Trade Unions appealed for solidarity from unions in other countries.

The gathering called for a massive campaign in the United States to protest the U.S. government's policies in southern Africa and force an end to military and intelligence cooperation between Washington and South Africa's imperialist government.

The program of action appeals for aid to



Banner bearing colors of outlawed African National Congress is raised at protest in South Africa.

independent African countries in the region, known as the Frontline States, in order to strengthen their ability to repel attacks from South Africa. It demands action to enforce the recent UN Security Council resolution calling on the Botha regime to pull its troops out of Angola, and demands that all governments prohibit activity by South African-backed counterrevolutionary outfits like the Mozambique National Resistance and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola.

The delegates demanded implementation of UN Resolution 435, which calls for the withdrawal of South African forces from Namibia.

The gathering recognized and hailed the

fact that the ANC leads the freedom struggle in South Africa and represents the people of that country. It urged "governments and peoples of the world [to] give direct political, financial, and material support to the ANC, and that they inform the public in their respective countries of the aims of the ANC, assist ANC missions in their countries, and campaign for the expulsion of the South African regime from the United Nations."

The conference affirmed the right of the people of South Africa to "pursue their struggle for democracy, self-determination, and genuine independence through all methods of struggle, including armed resistance."

Farmers weigh bank bailout law

BY DEAN PEOPLES

MANKATO, Minn. — Legislation now in Congress to provide billions in loan guarantees to help bail out the Farm Credit System was the topic of discussion at a meeting here sponsored by Groundswell. Groundswell is an organization of farmers, small businesspeople, and rural residents of Minnesota. The U.S. Senate has adopted a \$4.4 billion bailout plan, the House of Representatives a \$2.5 billion one.

The November 30 meeting heard a report on the status of the legislation from Chris Corson, a lawyer and lobbyist for the National Association of Farm Credit System Stockholders, also called Grassroots.

The Farm Credit System requires farmers who obtain loans to place part of the funds into Production Credit Associations or local Land Bank stock, which is supposed to make these institutions "farmer-owned." Some of the farmers at the meeting were PCA stockholders.

The Farm Credit Service of St. Paul, Minnesota, which makes operating and mortgage loans to farmers in Minnesota, North Dakota, Michigan, and Wisconsin as part of the federally chartered Farm Credit System, has accumulated more than 500,000 acres of farmland through foreclosures and forfeitures in the last few years. It has also been closing down some of its rural offices to save costs. This, however, makes it more difficult for farmers who now must travel long distances to arrange financing.

Corson reported that the Senate version of the bill includes several alterations to the

Farm Credit System that he believed would be damaging to farmers.

One of the points he mentioned was shortening from 60 days to 15 the period of first refusal. A farmer who is foreclosed on has the right to buy the farm back in a set period of time if he can match the best offer of a third party. Last year, responding to the pressure of mass marches and attempts by farmers to block foreclosure sales, the Minnesota legislature passed a bill with a 60-day right of first refusal.

Other proposed changes in the Senate bill include appointment of regional Farm Credit System directors instead of election by stockholders, which, Corson said, would tend to decrease any voice farmers had in the FCS and open up purchase of FCS stock to anyone who wants to buy it. Corson argued that this could lead to commercial banks taking over the FCS directly and operating it openly for profit instead of as an institution that makes funding available to "marginal borrowers." Most commercial banks are unwilling to make loans to farmers who are having difficulties since risks are greater and rate of return lower.

One person expressed the view that the Senate bailout was mainly to save the income of rich investors who hold "17 percent bonds" floated by the federal government to finance the FCS, not really to aid farmers.

It is estimated that since 1981 as many as 15,000 farms have been lost in Minnesota, which has a farm population of about 250,000. This is largely due to the huge drop in land values.

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Nicaraguan unions discuss constitution

The following declaration, issued by the Nicaraguan Union Coordinating Committee (CSN), was printed in the December 2 issue of the Sandinista daily *Barricada*, under the front-page headline, "If the constitution is reformed, it will be towards socialism!"

The unions in the CSN represent the big majority of Nicaraguan workers in both the city and the countryside. Their declaration is part of a broad political discussion taking place in shop-floor and plantwide meetings in preparation for a national union assembly December 12-13.

The union statement was a response to demands by right-wing and ultraleft parties for changes in Nicaragua's constitution that would turn back the gains won by workers and peasants since the 1979 Sandinista revolution overthrew the dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza. These parties are meeting with government representatives in discussions called "the national dialogue."

Some other references in the declaration may not be familiar to *Militant* readers.

Augusto César Sandino was the Nicaraguan national hero who led a guerrilla army against U.S. marines occupying Nicaragua from 1927 to 1933.

"Town meetings" refer to the nationwide assemblies organized in 1986 where tens of thousands of Nicaraguans participated in public debate over the content of the new constitution, which was adopted in January 1987.

The National System of Organization of Labor and Wages are government regulations that attempt to set wage scales and production norms for all workers, and provide incentive pay for those who exceed their norm.

The Guatemala accords are the agreements signed by the five Central American presidents in Guatemala last August 7.

The translation is by the *Militant*.

Communiqué of the CSN on the National Dialogue Discussion

The Nicaraguan Union Coordinating Committee (CSN), made up of the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST), Association of Rural Workers (ATC), National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers (ANDEN), Federation of Health Workers (FET-SALUD), National Union of Employees (UNE), and the Union of Nicaraguan Journalists (UPN), representing the more than 300,000 workers affiliated to our organizations, issues the following communiqué to the people and government of Nicaragua, and to the peoples of the world:

1. The Sandinista People's Revolution, which implements and develops the doctrine of national liberation outlined by General Augusto C. Sandino, has generated the social, ideological, moral, and organizational forces to strategically defeat the mercenary forces; that is, to defeat the

U.S. policy in the military arena. With this same doctrine, we will defeat the U.S. policy in the ideological and political arena.

2. In 1984, for the first time in the history of Nicaragua, we the workers participated directly in free elections. In 1985 we appeared before the Special Constitutional Commission to raise our principal demands, which we ratified in the town meetings and throughout the entire process that culminated in the approval of the current political constitution.

3. We who participated in the drafting and approval of the political constitution undertook a commitment to the people of Nicaragua to advance further with the social changes. However, for the sake of national unity, we made certain concessions with respect to what the masses historically expect of their revolution.

Therefore, we support those conquests with revolutionary determination. If the constitution is reformed, it must be to socialize the revolution even more, which is what the majority seeks.

- We will unleash workers' control and workers' management in the private, state, and mixed enterprises to dismantle bureaucracy and inefficiency, and to fight all expressions of social decomposition and backwardness.

- We will demand the intervention and confiscation of companies that divert their production to the speculative system, as in the case of the private rice companies and threshers.

- We will deepen the agrarian reform to give the excess land still held by landlords to the fighting peasants. Agricultural properties must have a limit.

- We will demand that the mass media be compelled to reflect the conquests of the workers and cease to be in the hands of economic groups at the service of interests opposed to the people.

- We will certainly demand that our armed forces faithfully retain their ideological content of national liberation to confront U.S. intervention.

- We will maintain the National System of Organization of Labor and Wages as a creation of the working class, and we will project its ideological content as the seed of the new social relations of production.

These are some of the banners that we, the fundamental forces of the revolution, are raising to accelerate the construction of a socialist society in Nicaragua.

4. We fully support the Guatemala accords, and we demand that the principle of simultaneity be faithfully fulfilled. That is, that the other Central American countries, and especially Honduras, expel the mercenary forces from their territory, and abstain from lending their territory to Yankee troops to practice invasions of Nicaragua. We demand that the Reagan administration recognize the peace accords by canceling its request for \$270 million or more for the mercenary forces. Without this principle of simultaneity, there can be no peace in Central America.

5. We also support the Guatemala accords because they allow better conditions for the exploited and oppressed of the rest of Central America to find a greater political opening for the revolutionary struggle for social change.

6. Finally, we call on all the people to remain armed and to mobilize themselves to the battle fronts. In particular, we call upon the youth who have completed their active military service to continue their fighting mobilization by integrating themselves into production and by joining the ranks of the military reserves of the Sandinista People's Army.

Remain mobilized in the military defense and production!

Deepen the social changes for socialism!
Free homeland or death!
Managua, Free Nicaragua,
Nov. 30, 1987

Lucío Jiménez, general secretary, CST.
Edgardo García, general secretary, ATC.

Gustavo Porras, general secretary, FET-SALUD.

Guillermo Martínez, general secretary, ANDEN.

Lily Soto, general secretary, UPN.

José Angel Bermúdez, general secretary, UNE.



Militant/Roberto Kopeck

Rally of more than a thousand unionists last March forced Nestlé to distribute its powdered milk through government agency that provided it at price working people could afford.

—WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

South Africa forces remain in Angola

Ignoring a United Nations Security Council resolution, the South African government is still refusing to get its invasion force out of neighboring Angola.

Meanwhile, it was disclosed that U.S. troops supervised the unloading of arms cargo in an area of Angola held by the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

A creature of the U.S. and South African governments, UNITA is a right-wing contra force being used in the drive to destroy Angolan independence.

In November, the South African regime publicly acknowledged that some 3,000 of its troops had invaded Angola in support of UNITA. This came at a point when the Angolan government

South African invasion. This came at the time when Angola had just won its independence from Portugal.

Since then, Pretoria and Washington have used UNITA as a tool in the drive to destabilize and if possible overturn the Angolan government.

On December 14, a captured UNITA supply officer said he worked with 10 uniformed, armed U.S. servicemen who supervised the unloading of cargo planes flown by U.S. pilots earlier this year. He said the planes came from Zaire bearing explosives, antiaircraft missiles, and antitank missiles.

Drive to topple Bangladesh ruler

H.M. Ershad, the strong-arm ruler of Bangladesh, is facing a powerful movement to force him out. A general strike shut down the capital city of Dhaka December 7, and another shutdown was slated December 12.

An ex-general, Ershad grabbed power in 1982. Last year he was declared president in a rigged election.

Responding to continuing protests to his regime, he imposed a state of emergency November 27. According to government figures, four people have since been killed and more than 2,500 jailed.

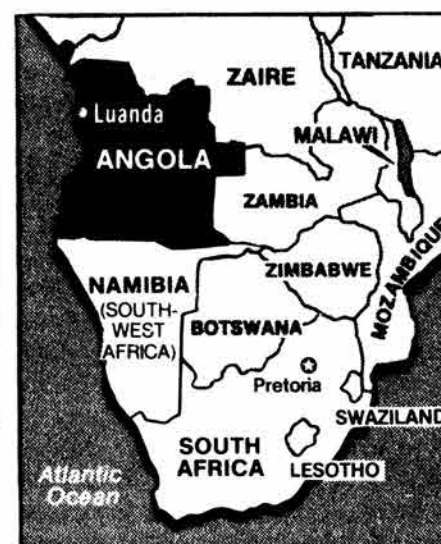
Then, in an attempt to defuse the opposition, Ershad released 35 opposition leaders from detention, including the two principal opposition figures, Sheikh Hasina Wazed and Khaleda Zia Rahman.

Zia heads the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Hasina Wazed the Awami League, the largest opposition group in the parliament. Both women had been under house arrest for a month.

Ershad also announced dissolution of the parliament and said he would "try" to hold elections in 90 days as required by the constitution.

On December 11 Hasina Wazed defied a ban on public gatherings by addressing a rally of 500 outside Dhaka University.

She demanded an end to all repressive measures, ouster of the Ershad regime, and the holding of elections under a neutral, caretaker government. These demands were echoed by Zia when she appeared before reporters at the National Press Club.



was reported pressing a major drive against the UNITA mercenaries.

The South African troops that went in were reported to also be suffering significant blows at the hands of the Angolan troops, and on December 5, the Pretoria regime announced that it was beginning a pullout. But 10 days later, a top Angolan military officer said most of the invading South African troops were still in place. He warned that if they did not get out, they might find themselves in combat with Cuban troops stationed in the country.

Cuban forces have been there since 1975 when they responded to an Angolan government plea to help crush a

Grenada newspaper denounces murder of Thomas Sankara

The murder of Thomas Sankara, president of the West African country of Burkina Faso, and the overthrow of the revolutionary government he led was reported in Grenada in the October 24 *Indies Times*, newspaper of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement.

The article pointed to the "striking similarity between the way he [Sankara] and his colleagues were assassinated and the way our own Maurice Bishop and his closest allies were assassinated."

Bishop was prime minister of the People's Revolutionary Government of Grenada from 1979 until October 1983. He and five cabinet members of the PRG were executed by soldiers supporting a secret faction in the ruling New Jewel Movement. The grouping was organized by the then deputy prime minister, Bernard Coard. Coard's actions paved the way for the subsequent U.S.-led military invasion of the island.

The *Indies Times* concluded, "There is no way we can condone or justify such brutal murders, and we strongly deplore and condemn these ultraleftist tendencies which have ruined many [revolutionary] processes."

Sounds practical — A brochure of the Hanover Mutual Fire Insurance Co. of Philadelphia reminds potential subscribers of the number of houses destroyed by fire



Harry Ring

when Philadelphia cops bombed the MOVE home.

Next question — Writer Annie Dillard recalled her mother's tart sense of humor. For instance, filling out a government form with

the question, "Do you favor the overthrow of the United States government by force or violence?" she tersely responded, "Force."

Boys will be boys — A Rotary Club in Warren, Ohio, introduced a woman as its first female member. She then did a strip tease, which was followed by a mock police raid. A district Rotary official said the club "erred."

Learn 'em right — A New York bank will open a kiddies' branch at F.A.O. Schwarz, the upscale toystore. An initial deposit of \$250 will be required. A bit steep? "This is a bank that sits on Park Avenue," the prez snorted. "That's our neighborhood, and we

have nothing to apologize for."

No-fault insurance? — Up to 50 workers at Robert Blazer's DeKalb Farmers Market in Atlanta (starting pay \$5 an hour) have quit or been fired for declining to sign up for a \$525 course by the founder of "est," the authoritarian blame-yourself therapy. Since taking the treatment, Blazer signs memos to employees: "I love you."

Tipping order — Experience suggests that the harder the job the lower the pay. For the *New York Times*, that also seems to apply to Xmas tipping. For a building handyperson, they suggest \$10 to \$15. For a building super, \$15 to \$30. For the maître d' at your fa-

vorite beanery, \$50 to \$100.

American know-how — First-class passengers on Pan Am international flights nibble on top-price Russian beluga caviar — maybe. It comes in duty-free because it's only used internationally. But the feds charge the importer has been selling the beluga to U.S. specialty shops and palming off cheapo fish eggs on Pan Am.

Original junk bond — For that friend who got caught in the market crash, a Greensboro, North Carolina, shop is offering a genuine Confederate States Bond. \$125.

News of the week — "The federal government's most extensive

review of Medicare records is uncovering evidence that hospital cost-cutting leads to poor health care for many elderly Americans." — Associated Press.

Inhibits urban removal — "Rent control serves only to preserve the status quo, to retard the improvement of marginal neighborhoods." — Editorial in *Craine's New York Business*.

Early settlers? — Three people were indicted for swindling several thousand men with a promised settlement in a "valley paradise" where they would be tended by nude "angels of love." (Photos were included.) The feds said the three had a fancy house and several luxury cars.

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Celebrate Publication of Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution. A Socialist Publications Fund Rally. Speaker: Elizabeth Stone, editor of *Women and the Cuban Revolution*. Showing of a short film on Che. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 16. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 1010 S Flower. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Oakland

Classes on Socialism. The Secret Police and the Struggle for Democratic Rights. A class series based on Larry Seigle's article, "The 50-Year Domestic Contra Operation" in issue No. 6 of *New Internationalist*. Translation to Spanish. Held every Wednesday at 11 a.m. or 7 p.m., Jan. 6, 13, 20.

"The Post-World War II Witch-hunt: the Role of the FBI in Splitting the CIO." Wed., Jan. 6.

"The Second Smith Act Frame-up (1949-50): the Contrast Between the Defense Policies of the Socialist Workers Party and the Communist Party." Wed., Jan. 13.

"The Socialist Workers Party Court Victory Against the FBI and the Importance of the Struggle for Democratic Rights." Wed., Jan. 20.

Classes held at 3702 Telegraph Ave. Donation: \$1 per class. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (415) 420-1165.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

The Homeless in America: a Growing Crisis. Speakers: Bob Santoro, resident volunteer, Open Door Community; Helen Lowenthal,

Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

A Panel in Support of the Paperworkers' Struggle. Speakers: Larry Shade and Ed Long, striking members of United Paperworkers International Union Local 1787 in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. Sat., Dec. 19. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Glasnost. Do Gorbachev's Reforms Mean Better Days Ahead for Soviet Working People? Speaker: Wendy Lyons, Socialist Workers Party and meat-packer member of United Food and Commercial Workers union. Sat., Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Black and Indian Rights in Nicaragua. Speakers: Hilary Shelton, participant in Martin Luther King Peace Brigade in Nicaragua; Greg Preston, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Dec. 19, 7 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Oppose U.S. Military Intervention in Haiti and the Haitian Military Junta. Sat., Dec. 19, 1 p.m. Eastern Parkway and Nostrand Ave. Sponsor: Committee Against Repression in Haiti.

UTAH

Price

Solidarity With United Mine Workers of America Strikes at Decker and Big Horn. Report back from Dec. 5 solidarity rally in Sheridan, Wyoming. Speaker: Charlene Adamson, Socialist Workers Party, member International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Sat., Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m. 23 S Carbon Ave., Suite 19. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

Miners Fight for Their Rights. Speakers: Libby Lindsay, member of United Mine Workers of America Local 633 and participant in recent International Miners Organization conference in Australia; Jim Little, Socialist Workers Party, *Militant* reporter at Kentucky miners' trial. Sat., Dec. 19, 7 p.m. YWCA Community Room, 1114 Quarrier St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

New Che book gets warm reception

Continued from Page 9

is still very much under way and in the forefront of attention.

Tony Chater

Editor, Morning Star of Britain.

The Cuban revolution was the first breakthrough for socialism in the Caribbean and Central and Latin America. It is an inspiration to the working people of the world, but especially to the people of South America who are oppressed and exploited by imperialism, U.S. imperialism in particular.

Elombe Brath

New York-based Patrice Lumumba Coalition.

Millions of people who had not known of nor appreciated the thoughts and deeds of Che in 1967 today have joined those of us who recognized his importance two decades ago.

The absence of Che Guevara in today's

world is a great loss to the growing camp of the revolution in the developing so-called Third World.

The publication by Pathfinder of *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution: Writings and Speeches of Ernesto Che Guevara* is a most timely contribution to the consciousness-raising of both those who missed out on the time of his presence and those who wish to remember the ideas and practice of one with whom they shared contemporary experiences in the trenches of revolutionary conduct.

Paul Sweezy and Harry Magdoff

Editors, Monthly Review.

Congratulations on the publication of *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*.

Che was one of the great revolutionaries of our time — as both actor and thinker — and it is important to have these writings and speeches collected in one accessible source.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

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WISCONSIN: Milwaukee: SWP, YSA, 4707 W. Lisbon Ave. Zip: 53208. Tel: (414) 445-2076.

NELSON MANDELA

The Struggle Is My Life

"The struggle is my life," wrote Nelson Mandela in a letter from the underground in June 1961. "I will continue fighting for freedom until the end of my days."

In this book the imprisoned leader of the struggle against apartheid in South Africa explains the goals of the African National Congress (ANC). His writings and speeches are brought together here with accounts of Mandela in prison by fellow prisoners. \$8.95

Available from Pathfinder Bookstores (see listing on page 12) or by mail (include \$.75 for postage).

Published by Pathfinder
410 West Street, N.Y., N.Y. 10014

Miners' meeting urges S. Africa sanctions

Continued from front page
coal.

Participants also approved an international boycott of uranium from the South African colony of Namibia and a boycott of Shell Oil Co. products. Shell has extensive investments in South Africa. The resolution also called for the release of South African revolutionary leader Nelson Mandela and others imprisoned by the apartheid regime.

Peter Heathfield, representing Britain's National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), said the IMO should not become a "resolutionary body" and urged delegates to make every effort to put the resolutions into practice. This sentiment was echoed by Alain Simon, the IMO's general secretary, who said, "We will not accept our member unions not actively working to implement this resolution on South Africa."

Much of the conference was spent discussing a resolution that stressed the need for world "peace and disarmament to remove the threat of nuclear annihilation which confronts humanity, to secure a future for all humankind and a 21st century free from weapons of mass destruction."

The document stated that the "struggle for peace and disarmament... cannot be disassociated from the struggle against underdevelopment and exploitation and the fight for a better world." In that context it called for "full support for the call by leaders of the underdeveloped world and many others for the establishment of a new international economic order to relieve the vast and restraining burden of the international debt crisis from the underdeveloped world and secure a more equitable distribution of resources for the world's peoples."

The resolution also saluted the December summit meeting between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

Discussions with miners

Both the formal sessions of the conference and the hours of informal discussion gave participants a rare opportunity to exchange experiences and carry out lively discussion about current working-class struggles around the world.

The IMO's president is Arthur Scargill from Britain's NUM. He is currently running for reelection as president of the union and was unable to attend the Sydney meeting.

Ann Scargill, an activist in Britain's Women Against Pit Closures, attended the conference and read greetings from her husband.

In the discussion, Victor Miatchine from the Soviet Union explained that there are 2.5 million miners in that country. "We have to work for a social and political climate in the world where wars are not possible for politicians," Miatchine said. "We appreciate the UN conference against the proliferation of nuclear arms," he added, "and we call on miners' unions to support this." He urged participants to help organize and participate in a miners' interna-

tional peace march in the Soviet Union or another country next year.

IMO General Secretary Simon from France urged miners to do their utmost "to counter those whose selfish class interest and greed for financial profit have led to the production of ever more monstrous deathly devices in ever greater quantities."

"This world must match the present challenges and create an irreversible balance of power in favor of peace," Simon said.

"The arms race," said Dominador Manganon of the May 1 Movement in the Philippines, "was initiated by the United States as a means to intimidate the workers of the world from taking what is theirs. But alone," he added, "disarmament cannot obtain the peace of the working class. This can only be obtained by eliminating the social system that oppresses the working class."

Nicaraguan miner

Rafael Caceres Aguilar addressed the conference on behalf of the miners' section of the Sandinista Workers Federation of Nicaragua. He described the progress miners and other working people have made in that country since their 1979 revolution, even in the face of the U.S.-backed contra war.

Aguilar emphasized that the Central American peace accords are the "result of the moral position of the Nicaraguan people, who, with their sweat and blood, have defeated the mercenaries of the United States." The accords, he said, "show the true desire for peace of the people of Central America."

Kathy Mickells was one of three women miners, including myself and Libby Lindsay, who attended the conference from the United States. Mickells told the participants, "The U.S. government is the main perpetrator of war in the world today. This war has two fronts," she said, "the one at home and the one abroad."

Mickells, a laid-off miner from Pennsylvania, described strike battles United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) members



South African miners during August 1987 strike. At Sydney conference, miners from more than 50 countries adopted resolution urging fight against apartheid.

are involved in in Wyoming. She also reported on the U.S. government frame-up trial of five Kentucky miners and the current contract negotiations between the coal union and the operators.

"The fight to end the U.S. war against the heroic Nicaraguan people is at the center of the quest for peace today," Mickells said. "The Nicaraguan people's determination, strength, and perseverance have established the basis for the Central American peace accords," she stated.

Barry Swan, general secretary of the Australian Miners Federation, introduced Dr. Helen Caldicott, an internationally known antinuclear activist. Caldicott urged delegates to fight against both nuclear weapons and nuclear power, which, she said, do not exist without each other.

Carmen Pazos represented Cuba's National Union of Chemical, Mining, and Engineering Workers. In calling for a resolute struggle against nuclear weapons and for peace, she asked, "How could there be a question of peace for workers in underdeveloped countries, peace in countries that have the burden of millions of dollars of debt? We must ask ourselves, 'How can we obtain peace until the exploited obtain justice?'"

Pazos called for support to the Central American peace accords and condemned Washington's "arrogant" attempt to prevent the negotiations from succeeding.

Kipp Dawson is a member of UMWA District 5 in Pennsylvania.

Palestinians gunned down in Gaza

Continued from front page

ians had been killed and more than 200 wounded.

The current wave of demonstrations were touched off when an Israeli army semitrailer truck slammed into two vans carrying Palestinian laborers, killing four and injuring seven.

In the face of truncheons, tear gas and deadly gunfire, the Palestinians have barricaded the streets with burning tires.

General strikes have gripped Gaza City and the main towns of the West Bank. Those who commute to jobs in Israel have stayed home. Demonstrators have defiantly waved the banned Palestinian national flag and posters of Yassir Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

At a Gaza hospital, one reporter was told by a wounded youth, "It's them or us!"

And from a mosque across the street from the hospital, a loudspeaker exhorted, "Young people, go at them. Don't back down!"

An estimated 1.4 million Palestinians live under the Israeli military regime in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Another 645,000 live in Israel itself. The state of Israel was carved out of the Palestinian homeland in 1947. Gaza and the West Bank were seized by the Israeli regime in its June 1967 war against Arab neighbors.

For 20 years Israel has continued the grim pretense that the occupation of the two seized territories is "temporary."

Encouraged by the government, some 60,000 Israeli settlers have helped themselves to the choicest spots in both territories. Many of these are racist, gun-toting vigilantes.

The military rules the territories with an iron fist. Palestinians have virtually no rights. There is detention without trial and arbitrary deportations into exile.

Before the present confrontations, more than 4,000 Palestinians were in prison in the West Bank alone.

Palestinian land is subject to seizure, strikes, and demonstrations are illegal. Political parties are banned.

Both areas are bitterly impoverished. In Gaza, more than half the population still lives in the wretched "refugee" camps administered by the UN.

There is very little industry in either area and Palestinians are forced to look for work in Israel where they constitute a lucrative pool of low-paid labor.

Until the present struggle, up to 120,000 West Bank workers commuted to Israel daily. In the Gaza Strip the estimated number ranges up to 60,000.

— 10 AND 25 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE 25¢
Dec. 23, 1977

News of what the coal operators are doing in the national contract talks with the United Mine Workers of America is sparse. Despite little real progress in the negotiations, however, the coal operators are busy on other fronts.

Their primary concern is to prevent a powerful, united fight by the miners. One of their tactics is to use the time-honored method of trying to divide the union through red-baiting.

So it's no surprise that a fresh crop of red-baiting should be sprouting in the coalfields of West Virginia just as the UMWA faces a fierce battle with the mineowners.

For their immediate purposes, they have singled out a small group based primarily in southern West Virginia, the Miners Right to Strike Committee, which has negligible support in the union.

All of a sudden the news media has provided the public with "documented proof" that leaders of the committee are "communists."

THE MILITANT

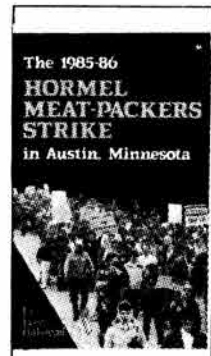
Published in the Interests of the Working People
Dec. 24, 1962 Price 10¢

As part of its observance of Bill of Rights Day, — December 15 — Attorney General Robert Kennedy's Justice Department was engaged in the first prosecution of a political party in U.S. history. Two days later the Communist Party was convicted in the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., of "criminally" failing to register as a "Communist action" organization under the McCarran Act.

The party was sentenced to pay the maximum fine — \$120,000.

In refusing to register, the Communist Party has taken the only correct position. For the party to have registered under this bill would aid the administration in persecuting the party. It would have aided the government in further unconstitutional prosecutions of CP members under the Smith Act. A law that requires an organization to participate in the persecution of its own members is clearly unconstitutional.

A pamphlet on meat-packers' struggle



The 1985-86 Hormel Meat-Packers' Strike in Austin, Minnesota presents the facts about the Geo. A. Hormel & Co.'s union-busting attack on the workers at its Austin plant, and about how the Hormel workers fought back and won support from unionists and farmers across the country.

Every unionist facing takeback demands and other attacks will want to read this story. 44 pp. \$1.00

Available from Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12, or by mail from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please add \$.75 handling.

Stop move to close PLO mission!

Washington's move to shut down the Palestine Liberation Organization's observer mission at the United Nations has sparked significant international protest.

With a single dissenting vote, the United Nations Committee on International Legal Matters endorsed a resolution December 11 affirming the right of the PLO to continue its 13-year-old observer mission.

One hundred nations voted for the resolution. The U.S. committee member refused to vote, arguing Congress had not yet approved the shutdown. Israel cast the lone no vote.

Twelve West European governments and Canada made statements charging that closing the mission would be a violation of Washington's agreement as host to the United Nations not to interfere in its functioning.

The Israeli government, whose troops are currently shooting down Palestinian protesters in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, shamelessly argued the observer mission must be shut down because the PLO is a "terrorist" organization.

The anti-PLO bill was approved by a conference committee of the Senate and House December 3 and is to be voted on by both houses. The bill has broad support among Republicans and Democrats alike, with liberals as strongly in favor of the undemocratic measure as right-wingers.

The move to close the PLO's UN office comes on the heels of a State Department order to close the Palestine Information Office in Washington. Despite the clear violation of First Amendment rights, this was upheld by a federal court.

The Palestine Information Office makes information available on the liberation struggle of the Palestinian people and helps circulate the views of the PLO.

The moves to muzzle the information office and the PLO are so blatant a violation of democratic rights that strong objection has been registered in this country as well as internationally.

Editorials opposing the action have appeared in the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, and *New York Newsday*. Sharp criticism was voiced by the American-Israeli Civil Liberties Coalition. The American Civil Liberties Union is representing the Palestine Information Office in its fight against the closing.

The aim of the bipartisan move to achieve the shutdown has nothing to do with "terrorism." It is a bureaucratic means to stifle a point of view that is beginning to win a broader hearing in this country — the point of view of those fighting for liberation from the brutal oppression of the U.S.-backed Israeli regime.

What to do about nuclear waste

Every day more nuclear waste is being produced. It is accumulating at nuclear power plants, nuclear missile and submarine-making facilities, and wherever else nuclear power is in use. And the U.S. government and big business are searching for communities that can be forced to serve as dumping grounds for the poison.

At the Three Mile Island nuclear power station near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, workers are still clearing huge amounts of radioactive debris produced by the partial meltdown of the Unit 2 reactor in 1979. The waste includes 2 million gallons of water and 293,000 pounds of debris. Two-thirds of the latter has already been removed to be stored — where?

Officials of the GPU Nuclear Corp. claim that the cleanup — which has just experienced one of many delays and breakdowns — is to be completed by May 1989. The damaged plant, we are told, will then be placed in "storage." Where?

If members of a joint congressional conference committee have their way, Nevada will be designated as the dump site for the most deadly wastes. The committee is resolving differences between the House and Senate versions of a measure to reduce the federal deficit. The Senate had tacked on to its version a provision to speed selection of a dump site and narrow the choices. Now the committee is considering choosing Nevada's Yucca Mountain region.

If the Nevada site proves unfeasible, however, the legislation provides that sites in Hanford, Washington, or Deaf Smith County, Texas, could be targeted instead.

The Nevada site would be less expensive, legislators say. And they no doubt hope that the people of the state, which has a population of 800,000 will not mount the kind of broad, visible, and politically embarrassing protests that have taken place in more populated areas against nuclear waste dumping in other parts of the country.

Officials are readying the usual promises that there will be no threats to people, crops, or livestock from the nuclear wastes, which will remain radioactive for thousands of years.

It won't be the first time communities have heard that one.

Since 1962, for example, six commercial plants have been built to dispose of "low level" radioactive wastes, most of it from nuclear power plants. The government designates all but the most extremely radioactive items — such as fuel rods from nuclear plants — as "low level." In each case, the owners and their governmental backers talked as though safety was their middle name.

But three of those "low level" waste disposal facilities have now been shut down, after the discovery that plutonium and other radioactive materials were seeping into local groundwater. A fourth site has now also begun leaking.

In an effort to end resistance in communities to accepting supposedly "low level" nuclear wastes, Congress passed a law in 1980 requiring state governments to form regional compacts that could compel local governments and people to allow dumping in chosen areas. But the opposition continued, and not one of these sites has been selected.

Of course, more and more sites will be needed as the pile of nuclear wastes mount ever higher. The government's guarantees about safety have been worthless. As Steven Frishman of Nevada's Nuclear Waste Project Office observed, "They're going to do anything they can to mask the deficiencies of the site."

Turning more parts of the country into poisoned dumps for nuclear wastes is no answer. The key to resolving the problem of nuclear waste is to stop producing it.

Shut down the nuclear power plants now, and stop building more of them. Stop building nuclear missiles, nuclear submarines, and other nuclear arms.

End U.S. funding of contra war

Continued from front page

visors, spent millions upon millions to create and back the contra army, menaced Nicaragua with displays of naval might and mined her harbors, violated Nicaraguan airspace with spy flights, unleashed the CIA against the Sandinistas, and killed and wounded 40,000 Nicaraguans in the six-year contra war.

Nothing then could be more outrageous than the spectacle of the U.S. imperialists demanding that Nicaragua disarm itself.

Nicaragua is a sovereign nation and has the uncondi-

tional right to determine its own affairs. This includes defending itself in the face of U.S.-organized aggression and getting the arms it needs from wherever it chooses.

The U.S. government threatens to continue arming and funding the contras indefinitely if Nicaragua's Sandinista government doesn't knuckle under.

A loud outcry is needed against this latest move to give still more aid to the contras. Unionists, students, antiwar activists, farmers, antiracist fighters, and others need to join forces to get out the truth about Washington's aggression against Nicaragua. We need to demand no U.S. aid to the contras. Let Nicaragua live in peace!

Are there too few babies in the 'Western' world?

BY DOUG JENNESS

Our species reached the 5 billion mark this year, serving as an occasion for many articles and reports worrying about the planet being overwhelmed with too many people. Many of the commentators are demanding more vigorous worldwide efforts to control population growth.

Joining this discussion is another view, which contends that there are too few people. A book published earlier this year, the *Birth Dearth* by Ben Wattenberg, argues this opinion.

Wattenberg is a syndicated columnist and author and was a member of the U.S. delegation to the 1984 UN World Population Conference. His new book has received wide publicity.

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Wattenberg's view seems to run 180 degrees opposite to that of the population control advocates. But that's actually more appearance than fact. The catch is he only favors increasing birth rates in a select group of countries, those that are "modern, industrial, and free."

He lists 22 countries, including the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and the countries of Western Europe. All are imperialist countries, and with the exception of Japan, have an overwhelmingly white population. (When the obvious charge of racial bias is made, Wattenberg conveniently cites his inclusion of Japan to deny it.)

For the great majority of humanity who don't live in the "free countries," Wattenberg sees declines in their birth rates as "heartening." This includes both countries oppressed by imperialist domination — the Third World — and the countries where capitalism has been overturned.

Wattenberg worries that only 15 percent of the world's population lives in the 22 "modern" countries, and that this could shrink to 9 percent in the next 40 years at current birth rates. This growing disproportion, he contends, "will hurt people and nations around the Western, modern world."

He cites many reasons why this will be the case.

Perhaps the most revealing is his contention that the "West" is the carrier of culture and progress and that this should continue to be the case. "Despite periodic recessions, stagflation, isolated occasional small wars in faraway places, oil shocks, and terrorism, we are more prosperous, healthier, more at peace, and more free than ever before," Wattenberg chirps.

The "aspiring nations," he claims, "have also gained during this rare moment of big-power peace and Western prosperity, freedom, and technological advancement."

This shows how Wattenberg's entire presentation is transparently aimed at ideologically bolstering the domination of imperialist oppressor nations against the growing weight of the struggle for national liberation and socialism in the world today.

Wattenberg casually dismisses the "small wars in faraway places." But these wars the "moderns" have waged against such "aspiring nations" as Korea, Vietnam, Angola, Algeria, Lebanon, and Iran have been among the bloodiest and most costly in human history. Moreover, "Western prosperity" is grinding down tens of millions of working people with a mounting debt to imperialist banks.

As Wattenberg develops his argument, it becomes clear that of the select 22, he is primarily concerned with population levels in the United States. This country is the leader of the "free" countries and needs a large population in order to maintain its role as a dominant military power, he asserts.

Wattenberg also contends that dangerously low birth rates in the imperialist countries will lead to economic turbulence. This, he says, will be the result of too many goods being produced for a shrinking domestic market.

It's true that overproduction in the capitalist countries is leading to a growing social crisis. But this doesn't mean more goods are being produced than are needed, but rather that there are too many for the capitalists to continue getting a profitable return on their sales.

Wattenberg's "classic case in point" shows how his argument falls apart at the first touch. He says that surplus housing will develop as the birth dearth continues.

It's possible a housing glut will emerge for those who are able to afford homes, but many can't, as the current rise in homelessness shows. Today, there's clearly a shortage of adequate and affordable housing.

Deep economic crises are coming to the capitalist countries as Wattenberg fears, but they won't be the result of population shifts or birth rates, nor can they be explained by laws of demography.

The generalized economic and social crisis that is coming will be the result of the evolution of capitalism — and can only be explained by understanding the laws of capitalist development.

Haves and have nots

I have been reading your newspaper for a short while now. Indeed, our strike has suscribed for regular copies.

I have enclosed leaflets regarding our 10-month-long strike and hope you find them of interest. My colleagues have endured the full wrath of Thatcherism here in Britain, where the country is heading back to the days of Queen Victoria, where you had the haves and the have nots.

The class division is becoming clearer and wider every day. If like us, you stand up for a justified reason and withdraw your labor, you are sacked and then victimized — unable to get another job.

Anthony Lowe
Secretary, Senior Colman
Strike Committee
Cheshire, England

Rio Grande Valley

It has been a while now since your paper had anything on the Rio Grande Valley. And to tell you the truth, things have changed here.

There are now more of us unemployed, 97,000 on food stamps (their figures), and many more of us on government cheese.

The politicians in the valley are so happy about the so-called "twin plants" (*maquiladoras*) across the border in Mexico that they never mention us, the unemployed, nor the workers on temporary or part-time work. The seasonal employers here seem oblivious to child labor laws, overtime pay, or reasonable cause for firings. Workers are plentiful and our labor de-

valuates faster than the Mexican peso!

M.V.
Corpus Christi, Texas

Should read 'Militant'

Great newspaper. It's so ironic that all these public officials claim they didn't know about this or that illegal activity-diversion.

I say they should read the *Militant*!

M.T.
Indianapolis, Indiana

Cuban prisoners

General Motors' Lakewood assembly plant, where I work, is just across the street from the Atlanta federal penitentiary. It's so close that workers could see the flames and smell the smoke from the rebellion by the Cuban prisoners that began there November 23.

Because the Cubans have protested their treatment in Atlanta for some time, a few workers were immediately sympathetic.

But most comments from my coworkers reflected confusion and misinformation, fueled by sensationalized accounts of destruction that we watched on TV the first few days.

As the smoke cleared, however, more information about the Cuban detainees and their demands began to surface. Rep. John Lewis told reporters in front of the prison that the Cubans had been treated unfairly for years. "What's happening should surprise no one," he said. Articles in the paper quoted the relatives of the prisoners as they detailed the U.S. government's injustice in dealing with their loved ones.



Following this news, some of my coworkers became supportive of the prisoners. Almost everyone I spoke to thought it was wrong that people could be thrown in jail indefinitely who have never been convicted of a crime.

Jeff Rogers
Atlanta, Georgia

Cuba-U.S. dialogue

"Dialogue, yes; war, no!" and "It is inhumane to blockade Cuba" were signs carried by some of the 90 people from the Cuban community who rallied in front of the federal courthouse in Miami recently.

They came to celebrate the

ninth anniversary of the Havana dialogue between the Cuban government and exiles in the United States, and to demand that the U.S. government renew economic and diplomatic ties with Cuba.

Jose Reyes, leader of the Committee of 75 that traveled to Cuba nine years ago for the initial dialogue, spoke for the Eglacia Christian Church group. He stressed that dialogue is the only way to stop the threat of war and that the majority of the Cuban community is in favor of these discussions.

Marchers were eager to explain that they wanted normal relations

between the United States and Cuba and wanted to be able to visit their families. Some had visited Cuba under the Carter administration. They told me that Cuba is not as bad as the radio broadcasters here, who represent the ultraconservative minority, and some others would have us believe. In fact, it's pretty good. Jobs, housing, health care, and education are all guaranteed, one person explained.

Zena McFadden
Miami Beach, Florida

Keeps us going

Apropos renewal of the *Militant*. It's not that I want to miss even one issue. But: no money at all till November 28, when old age pension check arrives.

Most careful retirement budgeting does go awry when federal and provincial governments hit you with "adjustments" and sock you with "corrective" invoices all at once, the very month when you have to pay for winter fuel, etc.

Keep up the good work. The *Militant* and *Barricada Internacional* keeps us going here, and of course, *Socialist Voice*, too.

M.F.
Ladysmith, Canada

Prisons for profit

The Silverdale Workhouse just outside Chattanooga, Tennessee, was the world's first privately managed prison when it opened in 1984. It is run by the Corrections Corp. of America based in Nashville. This company makes millions of dollars off the exploitation of the more than 300 inmates.

The prisoners — men and women — are brutalized by racist and sadistic prison guards and administrators. Countless beatings have taken place at the facility, and a Black female inmate, Rosalyn Bradford, was allowed to die for lack of medical care on January 31.

The government is touting privately owned prisons as the wave of the future, a foolproof method to deal with the poor and unemployed, and at the same time make a tidy profit.

But we can stop this exploitation if we fight back. Say no to prisons for profit! Join us in Chattanooga on December 19 at Silverdale Workhouse in Hamilton County to protest this corporate exploitation of prisoners.

Concerned Citizens for Justice
Chattanooga, Tennessee

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

From our readers behind bars...

The *Militant* receives many letters from our readers who are in prison. Space permits us to print only a small portion of these.

Last week, we devoted the letters column to brothers and sisters behind bars. But there were many more letters than we had space for, so this week we are printing an additional selection.

The *Militant* special prisoners' fund makes it possible to send subscriptions to prisoners who can't afford them. Where possible, the fund also tries to fill prisoners' requests for other literature. To help in this important effort, send your contribution to the *Militant's* Prisoner Subscription Fund, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

'Rehabilitation'

I am currently incarcerated in the Texas Department of Corrections serving a 12-year term.

I will not bore you debating my guilt or innocence. However, I will assure you that my conviction does not justify the oppressive abuse or the inhumane treatment and conditions I am subjected to daily by the so-called corrective officials supposedly in charge of our rehabilitation within this system.

The Texas Department of Corrections has certain policies that often even defy their own comprehension or ability to explain.

For example, TDC spent thousands of dollars to have metal detectors installed. Their reason: the safety and security of inmates and staff. TDC also spent and spends thousands of dollars to insure that each inmate has steel-toed boots at all times.

They seem to ignore the fact that the guards are prejudiciously

selective in what inmates they chose to stop and harass with body searches, even though every inmate unfortunate enough to have to wear state brogans sets off these metal detectors because of the steel toes.

And they absolutely suppress any mention that more than 80 percent of the inmate-striking-officer incidents arise from this type of harassment. More often than not it results in the inmate involved getting 2 to 10 years added to his sentence. It is usually more out of self-defense than retaliation.

A prisoner
Rosharon, Texas

Books for prisoners

This is in response to the letter from a prisoner in Tehachapi, California, who requested information on organizations that send reading material to prisoners. Here are two organizations that will give books. They may not always be able to send the titles requested, but will send similar books if they are not available.

Books for Prisoners, 92 Pike St., Seattle, Wash. 98101; and Redbook, Prison Book Program, 92 Green St., Jamaica Plain, Mass. 02130.

Both organizations are non-profit and depend on receiving donated materials.

A prisoner
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Put up or shut up

I read a copy of the *Militant* each week, and I see it speaks about what's taking place in many countries.

It would not be so bad if these leaders in office didn't want everything for themselves and believed in equality and justice for all.

It's a shame the presidents of countries such as Haiti, South Korea, the Philippines, and America are spending billions of dollars on military operations and sending troops to threaten and attack anybody who opposes their government policies. That's no way to handle a problem.

And they shouldn't be making promises to their people and not sticking to them. While they're sitting back engaging in their luxury, it seldom occurs to them that there are peasants in their countries without jobs, homes, land, who are starving to death.

It's time for the leaders in these countries to put up or shut up. It's time either they kept their promises and gave the people their freedom and rights, or step down.

A prisoner
Rosharon, Texas

Greatly satisfied

I have been receiving your publication for a while now, and I'm greatly satisfied. I have not been able to pay because I didn't have a job in this prison. This maximum security unit is so oppressive that inmates are handcuffed and shackled to go to the showers.

I just was fortunate enough to obtain a job as a GED Teachers' Aide, and although I only make 10 cents an hour for two hours a day, I will try to give a little money to the *Militant* for the cost of my subscription.

A prisoner
Florence, Arizona

Direct and complete

I am an inmate here at the Texas Department of Corrections, and I was for a short while fortunate enough to view and

study information that I've found to be so direct and complete in every issue of the *Militant* shared with me by a brother from down the run.

Unfortunately, though, this brother has been moved, and I now have no way of keeping up with the struggle of my brothers and sisters who will one day overcome.

I ask you brothers and sisters if it is possible that I may be placed on your mailing list so that I may receive and share this needed information with other brothers here with me.

A prisoner
Huntsville, Texas

Study group

I write to inquire into the possibility of being provided with any of the following books and pamphlets for our study group: *The Revolution Betrayed*, by Leon Trotsky; *Reform or Revolution*, by Rosa Luxemburg; *Karl Marx and His Teachings*, by V.I. Lenin; *Fascism: What It Is, How to Fight It*, by Trotsky; and *In Defense of Marxism*, by Trotsky.

About seven weeks ago we decided to begin to seriously study Marxism and Leon Trotsky. We used the *Communist Manifesto* and *My Life* to begin with, and from a careful perusal of these two works a lot of opinions and outlooks have been changed. We now seek to further cultivate our revolutionary understanding and mentalities and form a lucid understanding of the situation in Russia after Joseph Stalin consolidated his power.

One of our comrades receives the *Militant*. It provides for lively discussion and debates each week; a light!

A prisoner
Pendleton, Indiana

N.Y. actions hit racist brutality

Barbaric attacks on young Black woman, prisoners protested

BY JANE HARRIS

NEWBURGH, N.Y. — Tawana Brawley, a Black 15-year-old honor student, was found wrapped in a plastic bag on a roadside in nearby Wappingers Falls on November 28.

Brawley had been kidnapped and held for several days by Ku Klux Klansmen who also told her they were cops. After raping and sodomizing her, they wrote "KKK" across her chest and "Nigger" in excrement across her stomach.

Some 800 demonstrators, overwhelmingly Blacks from across the state, came here 60 miles north of New York City on December 12. They were answering an emergency call for a "Day of Outrage" against the KKK and another brutality that took place at prison in nearby Goshen.

The prison incident occurred at the Orange County Correctional Facility. There five Black and four Latino inmates were severely beaten by as many as 30 guards, some of whom were dressed as Klansmen. After the beatings, the prisoners were denied medical treatment.

The kidnapping and rape of Brawley has been virtually ignored in the big-business press. In contrast, demands for justice in the case have been featured prominently in most of the weekly Black press in New York City.

It comes on the heels of seeing New York officials in the last few years do nothing to the murderers of Black transit worker Willie Turks, subway artist Michael Stewart, and 67-year-old Eleanor Bumpurs, who was gunned down by police in a dispute about back rent.

Adding to the anger is the fact that vigilante gunman Bernhard Goetz was recently given just a six-month slap on the

wrist for shooting four Black youths.

In the case of the lynch-mob attack on three stranded Black motorists in Howard Beach, Queens, a jury is now deliberating murder charges brought against four white men responsible for the death of Michael Griffith.

Robert Gregg, a Black college student from New York City, put three other fraternity brothers in his car and drove up.

"I think it's worth the drive. This case is not being handled properly. I haven't gotten much insight on it from the media and wanted to learn more. We wanted to show our face and thought it was important to show our support," Gregg told the *Militant*.

Gregg's sentiments were representative of most. The standing-room only crowd in Newburgh's Bethel Baptist Church, which included about 50 white antiracist activists, was angry, serious, and looking for answers.

Juanita Brawley, Tawana's aunt, described how when she finally found Tawana under a Jane Doe in the hospital, all her hair had been chopped off and feces had been rubbed into her scalp.

Juanita Brawley immediately called for the police. When they entered Tawana's room, the young woman began screaming hysterically.

"What's the matter?" one cop asked Tawana. "Are you still mad at me?" Apparently, the cop was one of the six Klansmen who had raped and sodomized her.

Another rally held in Poughkeepsie 15 miles from here on the same day also protested the rise of racist attacks in the mid-Hudson region. Two hundred participated.



Militant/David Rosenfeld

800 protesters from across New York State participated in "Day of Outrage" December 12 in Newburgh. Action threw spotlight on anti-Black violence.

Utahns campaign against racist Aryan Nations

BY SCOTT BREEN

WEST JORDAN, Utah — "No more hatred, no more fear, Aryan Nations aren't wanted here!" chanted 300 people at the city park here December 5.

The protest, planned by the newly organized Utahns Against the Aryan Nations, protested the debut of the "Aryan Nations Hour," on KZZI radio in West Jordan, hosted by avowed racist Dwight McCarthy.

The Aryan Nations seeks to establish a whites-only state in the area encompassing of Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. The group is the political arm of the Church of Jesus Christ Christian, headed by Richard Butler and headquartered in Hayden Lake, Idaho.

According to the Aryan Nations platform, not only Blacks, Latinos, and Asians but "all hybrids called Jews are to be repatriated from the Republic's territory. . . ."

The Utah government's execution in August of Pierre Dale Selby, a Black man convicted of murder, put a little wind in the sails of Butler and other ultrarightists in this area. Local racists mobilized to celebrate the execution. In the wake of this event, the Aryan Nations began to function more openly in Utah. McCarthy, who had formerly called his talk show "The Counter-Marxist Hour," proclaimed himself a supporter of the group, renamed the show, and openly devoted his air time to building the Aryan Nations.

Butler was the first guest on the "Aryan Nations Hour."

He is an open admirer of Adolf Hitler, who headed the fascist dictatorship in Germany from 1933 to 1945.

Joe Roach of Students Against Apartheid, who chaired the rally to protest the Aryan Nations, commented, "Violence seems to follow them around."

The group has been implicated in firebombings in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and in harassment of Blacks and Jews, including cross-burning ceremonies similar to those

carried out by the Ku Klux Klan. Their Hayden Lake compound is an armed camp.

Some of their members have formed an underground terrorist organization called The Order, and two of these have been convicted of the 1984 murder of Denver radio talk show host Alan Berg. Others have been indicted on charges of robbery, murder, counterfeiting, and conspiracy to overthrow the federal government.

The December 5 protest was called two days earlier at a news conference attended by representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, National Organization for Women, Catholic Archdiocese, Students Against Apartheid, Brigham Young University College Democrats, Interfaith Peacemaking Center, and by Rev. Curtis Sewell of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The day before the rally, KZZI broadcasters charged that the rally against the Aryan Nations was an attack on free speech rights. "We are here today . . . to exercise our right to speak out against their racist ideas," responded Roach to the gathering.

The Utah AFL-CIO sent a message of support to the protest.

Bill Wassmuth, a Catholic priest who chairs the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations in Idaho, sent a message to the rally. His home in Coeur d'Alene was firebombed last year after he had organized protests against the Aryan Nations.

"Our experience here in Coeur d'Alene is that silence in the face of Aryan activity is viewed as support or at least tolerance. On the other hand when the community stood together and expressed loudly their commitment to human rights, the activities of the Aryan Nations were diminished and the group rendered virtually powerless."

The demonstrators warmly applauded the remarks of Steve Warshell of the Socialist Workers Party, who said, "This protest will not be the last one, it is just a beginning of a big educational campaign needed to defeat the Aryan Nations."

Four union miners convicted in Kentucky frame-up trial

BY JIM LITTLE

ASHLAND, Ky. — As we go to press, Kentucky miners Donnie Thornsburg, David Thornsburg, Arnold Heightland, and James Darryl Smith have been convicted on all charges in their frame-up trial. Next week's *Militant* will carry a full report on the final days of the trial and the steps being taken to overturn the frame-up conviction.

The four face life imprisonment on charges related to the shooting death of scab hauler Hayes West during the 1984-85 United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) strike at A.T. Massey Coal Co. operations. The trial began November 24.

The government tried to create a sensation by calling two witnesses associated with the miners' union to testify against the defendants.

Ervin Smith, former vice-president of UMWA Local 2496, was originally indicted in West's death along with the other union members. Under pressure from the U.S. Justice Department and the FBI, Smith entered a plea bargain. He is the brother of the defendant James Darryl Smith.

Ervin Smith testified that he picked the miners up at the home of Sandy and Donald Tackett after the shooting of West.

On the stand, Ervin Smith appeared a broken man. He couldn't look in the direction of the defendants. Instead he stared at the ceiling while U.S. attorney Thomas Self coaxed each line out of him.

Government witness Sandy Tackett was presented as someone who had been pro-union but had changed her mind. Actually, the government has relocated the entire Tackett family to Florida. The Tacketts also stand to collect up to \$50,000 in reward money if the unionists are convicted.

Tackett testified that the men came into her house after the shooting and discarded camouflage outfits, which she later transported to defendant Donnie Thornsburg's home.

Another witness, Roy Leeke, contradicted her, saying he saw men wearing camouflage fatigues on the highway some distance away from the Tacketts' home.

Both Smith and Tackett are being portrayed as "insiders" who know a lot about "UMWA violence against the coal company."

Earlier, the government unsuccessfully tried to tie the men to rifles allegedly found near the Tacketts home. None of those rifles can be connected to the slugs removed from the scab coal hauler's vehicle.

After the government concluded its case, defense attorneys called witnesses to the stand who testified about the whereabouts of the defendants the morning of the shooting.

The records of the company's own security personnel show that two of the unionists were on the picket line. One defendant was signing up for unemployment benefits in Williamson, Kentucky, that morning. And another was at home.

Defense attorney Garis Pruitt asked Detective Donnie Jack Phipps if he knew of incidents where the coal companies staged attacks on themselves to blame the union for the violence. Phipps said he had seen that happen many times during his 30 years of police work in Pike County, Kentucky.

Trying to whip up support for a conviction, E. Morgan Massey, president of Massey Coal, recently told an audience at Marshall University in nearby Huntington, West Virginia, that West was "killed by union-paid assassins."